

# Front-line Presidents split over Smith approach to guerrillas

The Presidents of the front-line states have split into two camps, one supporting Mr Nkomo, the Rhodesian guerrilla leader, who has had talks with Mr Ian Smith, and the other aligned with his co-leader of the Patriotic Front, Mr Mugabe.

## Mr Nkomo derides Dr Nyerere

Both the Zambians and Mr Nkomo insist he would never consider returning to Salisbury without Mr Mugabe. Mr Nkomo, whose Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) is based in Zambia, fought hard at the weekend summit to win front-line endorsement of continuing negotiations with Mr Smith. He now openly contemptuous of Dr Nyerere and Mr Machel.

"Who is President Nyerere anyway?" he asked today. "He can't tell me what I must do. He is not the final authority on what must happen in Zimbabwe, is he?"

"We will discover what step we must take. . . . We shall not take what other people think is appropriate."

Dr Nyerere, Mr Nkomo said, was not really even president of a front-line state because Tanzania does not border Rhodesia.

In the Zambian view the others are suspicious of the Smith offer because they do not understand the intricacies of the Rhodesian situation as well as President Kaunda does. The guerrillas are winning the war and the Prime Minister realizes that to save his country from destruction he must hand power to the Patriotic Front, the Zambians insist.

Dr Nyerere prepared to give everything to one Government official said. "What more can you ask of a man?"

Mr Mugabe and his two presidential mentors believe it is all a trick, either by Mr Smith himself, or with the participation of Mr Nkomo.

The situation reflects the deep mistrust between Mr Nkomo's Zapu and Mr Mugabe's



Protesters meeting Mr Len Murray as he arrives at the TUC conference at Brighton.

## Big battalions beat off plans to reorganize TUC General Council

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Brighton

The reality of the power game in the top levels of trade union influence was exposed yesterday but the big battalions closed ranks to frustrate reform. Under debate at the 110th Trades Union Congress were the method by which the unions elect the TUC General Council, and the "client state" relationship between those who wield huge block votes and those who rely on their backing.

On a card vote, delegates rejected by a majority of 5,215,000, a move by the General and Municipal Workers' Union which would have given large and middle-ranking unions automatic seats on a slightly enlarged general council. The many small unions would have had an election among themselves for 10 of the seats.

Nearly half those winning votes came from two unions: the two-million strong Transport and General Workers' Union, and the engineering workers, who number more than a million. On an earlier show of hands the conference president, Mr David Barnett, who is also general secretary of the sponsor union, declared the initiative carried.

Election to the general council will therefore continue to be from 17 trade groups on the basis of the votes cast on behalf of nearly 11,700,000 union members by their delegates to the congress, a procedure condemned by one of its more recent victims yesterday as "totally undemocratic".

Mr Roy Grantham, the moderate general secretary of the United States, who was voted off four years ago by a coalition of leftwing and anti-EEC unions, surprised some dele-

## Labour Party backing for reform of Bank of England

By Maurice Corina, Industrial Editor

The Labour Party's working party on banking and insurance policy, which is engaged in consultations with 10 trade unions, has concluded that there is what it calls "a broad measure of agreement" for reforming the Bank of England and effecting changes in the financial system to ensure the flow of funds is more in line with national priorities.

However, an interim report from the working party, set up after the Labour Party's national executive committee issued its highly controversial statement *Banking and Finance* (approved at the 1976 party conference), reveals strong opposition to nationalization of the top seven insurance companies and four major clearing banks.

Wide support is reported for the proposal to merge National Giro and the National Savings Bank as the starting point for creation of state banking. Backing is also revealed for a Swedish-style Investment Reserve Fund and a new related lending facility financed by pension and life funds through the contribution of 10 per cent of their new monies.

The working party report says: "Considerable hostility to the proposals on nationalization has been expressed. However, we feel that the strength of the arguments put forward in *Banking and Finance* has not been appreciated, and we do not believe the analysis presented in that document has been refuted."

Valuable and productive evidence had been taken from trade unions, which were divided in their views on specific questions.

There was broad agreement among unions, which were still being consulted, on the need for

## Tory manifesto ready for poll announcement

By Fred Emery, Political Editor

The Conservatives have their manifesto ready for an election announcement, it was disclosed last night after a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the party leader, and her colleagues, meeting for the first time since Parliament recessed in August, held a detailed discussion yesterday afternoon of the manifesto draft, which contains some revisions since it was first considered in July.

Mr Angus Maude, the Shadow Cabinet member who is chairman of the party research department, has had overall responsibility for the drafting.

A statement disclosed that the Shadow Cabinet discussed the "present political scene" and contingency plans the party had for holding its annual conference at Brighton "in the event of there being no election".

However, it was learnt that there was no discussion of what the result might be, or much on possible timing.

Most of the time was spent going through the document, section by section, checking the revisions sought in the previous draft. There were typically tight lips in Conservative

## Air crash survivors massacred

Mr Frederick Ciesay

Can one of 18 survivors of a Rhodesian Viscount crash in northern Rhodesia last night be after-wards murdered by guerrillas, spokesman for combined operations headquarters in Salisbury said.

The 18 survivors of a crash—which killed 48 people—were alive and well at 5 p.m. Five left through a bush to seek help from a tripepeople and 13 remained close to the wreckage.

Later, appeared, derided the shocked and injured survivors to their feet, a opened fire with automatic-made Kalashnikov assault rifles. Ten people in the aircraft and two ground were killed.

The three who survived the massacre unhurt were named as

## Shell chief defends oil firms' stance

By Peter Hennessey

Mr Nicholas Hirst, Sir Francis Maclean, former chairman of the Shell Petroleum Company, has made a strong defence of the oil companies' reactions to sanctions against Rhodesia and is highly critical of the Government's action.

In a letter to *The Times* day Sir Frank, who was managing director of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies from 1964 to 1976, says that as a result of "some highly selective quotations from a complete series of documents" there is emerging an unbalanced picture which needs immediate correction.

Sir David Steel, the present chairman of BP, in a letter last week said he would "refer to what until the publication of the report by Mr Thomas Bingham, QC, before making any comment."

In his letter [page 15] Sir Frank says that the process by which the Government approached work is described in the letters of the late Richard Crossman [page 4].

A study of the diaries from 1964, 1965 substantiates the aim of Sir Harold Wilson that the Prime Minister did not want a sanction-breaking by British companies at the time.

In Crossman's volume is the most detailed account published to date of the work of the cabinet and its committees in the late 1960s.

Sir Frank, after explaining the background to the introduction of sanctions, writes that it became clear at a very early stage that there was a conflict of law and political objectives between the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Very early after the imposing of sanctions, the oil companies and the Government, that it was impossible to prevent oil from reaching Rhodesia without locking South Africa.

## New helicopter project will cost £1,000m

From Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent, Farnborough

A new British helicopter project costing about £1,000m to develop has been approved by the Government, it became clear at the air show at Farnborough yesterday.

Coded the WG 34, the project has been conceived by Westland, the helicopter manufacturers based at Yeovil, Somerset.

The Government has already allocated £10m to take it to the project definition stage.

Mr Basil Blackwell, managing director of Westland, said at Farnborough that he expected a full launch of the project next year. Discussions are already well advanced with the French and the Italian aircraft industries on joint manufacturing and sales deals.

The WG 34 will be a large aircraft. It will succeed an American design made by Westland under licence for naval and air force use, and for servicing the oil and gas industries in the North Sea.

Its first employment will be as an anti-submarine warfare aircraft, packed with electronic equipment to detect and track the progress of enemy warships. In its civil form it will carry up to 40 passengers.

Of the total development cost of £1,000m, Westland will spend £250m and the rest will be committed to the advanced electronics to be built into the project. Those systems are being coordinated by the British Marconi company.

Westland is already recruiting technicians to work on the WG 34 project, which when it is in full assembly, may create

## Rees talks in Bonn on anti-terror steps

Bonn, Sept. 4.—Mr Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, and Herr Gerhart Baum, the West German Interior Minister, agreed today to increase their anti-terrorist cooperation after talks on British Army installations the Interior Ministry said.

British and German officials hold IRA terrorists responsible for explosions at six British military installations.

Mr Rees and Herr Baum discussed these explosions, as well as Arab terrorist attacks in several European capitals. The talks opened a two-day visit by Mr Rees at the invitation of his German colleague. He will also visit units of the Federal Border Guard and the Federal Criminal Office.—A.

Schleyer anniversary, page 4

## Mr Sadat sees summit as turning point

President Sadat of Egypt stopped in Paris yesterday, on his way to America for the Camp David Middle East summit for talks with President Giscard d'Estaing. Earlier he had told the Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram* that the summit would be a turning point in Middle East history. Members of the American Administration have given repeated warnings that no dramatic breakthroughs are likely. In Israel security precautions have been increased.

## BL strike reprieve

A decision on strike action by 3,000 Leyland toolmakers in support of 32 "rebel" colleagues has been postponed. Their union is to call a last-chance meeting which cannot be arranged before next week.

## Rabies safeguards

Britain's contingency planning for rabies is well advanced and an outbreak should be contained, Mr D. L. Haxby said in his presidential address to the British Veterinary Association, but illegal imports of animals must still be heavily penalized.

## Arms of science

Military spending should be reduced to divert scientists to better ends, Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, the Nobel prizewinner, told the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

## Anti-war protests

Several members of the War Resisters' League, an American organization, were arrested in Moscow and Washington when they staged disarmament demonstrations, timed to coincide, outside the Kremlin and the White House.

## Air go-slow ends

French air traffic controllers have ended the 18-day work-to-rule, which has disrupted holiday flights from Britain to southern Europe, and delays should soon be eliminated.

## Teachers' pay

An arbitration panel has recommended a 13.5 per cent rise, back-dated to April 1, in teachers' London weighting allowance.

## Dental hygiene

A two-page Special Report on the state of the nation's teeth.

## Everyone can own a Dewar's original







## HOME NEWS

## Union planning to contain rabies well advanced

on Mr Veterinary

Contingency planning for a possible outbreak of rabies in Britain is now so well advanced that the disease should be contained if it gains entry, Mr D. L. Haxby said in his residential address to the annual congress of the British Veterinary Association at Lancaster yesterday.

However, irresponsible and illegal imports of animals must continue to be heavily penalized, he said. Also, there should be a general improvement in the standards of pet ownership. Sections of the public were justifiably opposed to uncontrolled pets that cause inconvenience to others.

For that reason, the association favoured an increase in the licence fee, Mr Haxby said, on condition that the fee was used to establish dog wardens, whose prime function would be to educate owners and control dogs.

Mr Haxby called for a new vaccination campaign for Aujeszky's disease, which had severely damaged the pig industry of several European countries and the United States. Although already in Britain, the disease was still at a low level, and the time to act was now.

Opening the congress, Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, maintained that the health of British livestock had never been better. The country had been kept free from foot-and-mouth disease and swine fever, and after 15 months' complete freedom, it could be confidently claimed that we had eradicated swine vesicular disease.

The remaining pockets of sheep scab should soon be eliminated, he said, and tuberculosis was tightly controlled (partly through the essential destruction of badgers) and by November next year all cattle in Britain would be in eradication or at least areas for brucellosis.

On the vexed question of the control of meat inspection, Mr Silkin had told Brussels, the European Commission, that British environmental health officers were sufficiently experienced for our purposes; consequently, the Government had no intention of changing the existing four hygiene arrangements in meat plants prepared entirely for the home market by bringing in veterinarians. When meat was exported, however, we had to satisfy the customer, and as most other EEC members and most countries outside the Community demanded continuing veterinary supervision of slaughterhouses, it was necessary to protect our considerable export trade in meat.

Mr Silkin referred to the growing political controversy over the export of live animals for slaughter. The Government was still carefully weighing the strongly held conflicting views on that issue. He personally disliked certain aspects of that trade and he was, therefore, interested to see that the association's policy of reducing unnecessary transport of live animals for slaughter should lead logically to a preference for the export of carcasses rather than live animals.

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## Pay inquiry move stops NHS engineers' action

National Health Service engineers suspended threatened industrial action yesterday to allow an investigation into their pay. National officers of the five unions involved, whose action would have affected hospitals, met Mr Roland Moyle, Minister of Health, on Friday. Miss Elaine Nicholson, of the National and Local Government Officers Association, said Mr Moyle had met them at the House of Commons yesterday. He had asked the Cabinet to consider whether the workers concerned could be made a special case.

## Man's illness delays Scots trial

From Our Correspondent Edinburgh

The trial of Thomas Moore, former Lord Provost of Dundee, and three other men on conspiracy and corruption charges was postponed indefinitely at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

Two senior psychiatrists said that John Maxwell, a Dundee businessman, one of the defendants, was suffering from morbid depression after the murder of his daughter Helen, aged 13. She disappeared in 1973 and her body was not found until this year, when her husband, James Wilkie, aged 21, was convicted of her murder.

Lord Thomson said after hearing legal debate that, because of the nature of the charges, to continue with the trial in the absence of Mr Maxwell would necessarily involve a substantial risk of prejudice. He had made the decision reluctantly.

A total of 280 witnesses had been cited to attend the trial. The other defendants are James Stewart, a former councillor of Dundee, and Andrew Blair, a former Dundee council departmental head.

## Horseplay at rape hostel, report says

A report on the rape of a housemother, aged 26, by boys in her care at a council hostel says there had been horseplay on previous occasions at the home.

The report on the community home in Nicoll Road, Harlesden, run by the London Borough of Brent for boys aged between 14 and 17, has been prepared by Mr Harry Whalley, Brent's director of social services.

It says that before the rape of the housemother other incidents had taken place. The housemother acknowledged that she had not been firm enough when, for example, such incidents took place as boys touching her breasts, the report says.

Mr Charles Poulter, for Brent Council, said the seven-page report was confidential and would be discussed in private by the social services committee tomorrow.

At 15-year-old and two 16-year-olds received previous sentences last month for the rape. The home, which housed seven teenagers, was closed after the rape, but the council says the reason for the closure was that more suitable accommodation was required. It was not because of the rape incident.

Mr Poulter said the home had been without an officer in charge at the time of the rape because no one suitable had been found. The housemother, a female member of staff, was on duty in another room but the housemother could not get in touch with him because internal telephone wires had been cut.

The report also says that various hostel rules were broken by the boys. Alcoholic drinks, forbidden on the premises, had been smuggled in and boys stayed out late beyond permitted hours. On the night of the rape the boys involved went to a late night disco and had apparently been drinking.

The report concludes: "In so many cases there is complete indifference on the part of parents and by the time they come into care they have established subcultures of their own."

The report adds that the six members of staff at the home and the agency housemother were anxious to encourage trust and friendship with the boys in a very real and practical way. For example, staff would sit with the boys watching television and one of them might put his head on a member of staff's shoulder.

Such situations were felt by the staff to have more of a child-parent relationship rather than to have sexual overtones. They recognized that the boys' "emerging adolescence brought elements of risk", the report says.

The report says there was evidence to suggest that on the night of the rape the boys had been drinking off the premises. It describes the housemother as an "attractive young lady with long blonde hair who was not generally provocative".

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## Arms cuts in favour of science urged

Many more young people should be attracted to science, Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, winner of the 1964 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, said yesterday.

She told the British Association for the Advancement of Science that military spending and development should be cut and the scientific manpower used for better ends.

Speaking at the association's annual meeting at Bath, she said that Britain had fewer scientists a head than industrially successful countries.

A higher proportion of government research funds was spent on defence than by such countries as West Germany and Japan.

World expenditure on military research and development was estimated at \$30,000m (about £15,000m) last year. That represented huge investment of scientific manpower that could and should be diverted to better ends.

In Britain there were 10 scientists to every 10,000 of the population. In the Soviet Union there were 36, in the United States 25, in Japan 23, and in West Germany 19. About a fifth of Britain's scientists were women compared with half or more in other countries.

"We need to draw in more of the young and also more women," Professor Hodgkin said. "War-time experience showed the many unexpected people could do skilled scientific work if suitably trained."

There were more than seven thousand teachers out of work in June, with more to come as more qualified teachers retired and last year more than two million schoolchildren were in classes numbering 31 or more.

"We need to do better, use many more teachers and others, if we are not to waste many talents."

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## TUC CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

## Legislation demanded to make employers take on youngsters

Legislation to compel employers to take on young unemployed people was urged in a composite motion which was carried overwhelmingly after the congress, on its opening day at Brighton, had heard reports from one union leader that it would be difficult to contain the social consequences if school-leavers immediately joined the dole queue.

"Unless we are prepared to try to resolve this problem we are moving to a situation where young people will not suffer in silence. They will reject democracy and turn to the streets," Mr Harry Wood, general secretary of the National Society of Mental Mechanics, said.

The composite motion stated that the congress was seriously alarmed at the level and continued growth in youth unemployment and called on the Government to take urgent steps to reverse that "soul-destroying trend in society".

It stated that the congress deplored the reluctance of employers to make room for people and suggested considering legislation to compel employers to engage a proportion of their staff as young people in offices and factories in the same manner in which they were committed to the Register of Disabled People.

Mr Wood said the social consequences if young people leaving school immediately joined the dole queue would bring about a dangerous situation that everyone would find difficult to contain.

"The frustration of young people could well spill over to a division in the trade union movement between young and middle-aged," he said.

Figures illustrating the frightening situation of the past year showed that 600,000 people were unemployed at present. Of those, 441,000, which was a quarter, were under 25 years of age. That figure 50,000 had not worked for more than 26 weeks. It could be reasonably assumed that most of those had never worked since they left school.

Most of the larger factories in the manufacturing industry refused the recruitment of young people.

It seemed to the union that some form of compulsion should be introduced to make sure that all efforts were taken to eliminate that tragic situation.

Introducing the section of the composite motion, Mr Harry Wood said that he must remember that laws designed to be enforced by employers might be resisted in certain ways by the disavowal of unions.

Legal intervention can be justified, he said, because we have to be careful and clear before we seek changes in the law. That is why the general council are looking at the problem of reaching a law.

Even when the general council decided that changes were necessary, it was not enough to get the law changed. The Government's weak parliamentary position had prevented the passage of the Bill.

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Mr David Basnett setting an electioneering tone.

## Mr Basnett calls for return of Government

From Christopher Thomas Labour Reporter

Mr David Basnett, chairman of the TUC, set the electioneering tone of this year's congress with a call to "work and vote for Labour".

The political opportunity is to keep in power the government of a party whose vision of the future is similar to ours, a government which we can cooperate with.

Delivering his address, he said the next election, more than ever, would be about the long-term future: the future of growing technological change and unemployment; a future in which there must be a final assault on discrimination, inequality and poverty.

In an attack on the Conservative Party, he said that trade unionists waited policies not posters; policies that could not come from a party pledged to support public schools and expand private medicine.

Trade unionists needed public services but not private privileges. They also need to see that North Sea oil is used to regenerate British industry, a need which cannot be met by a party where responsibility for the historical degeneration of British industry is now allied to their desire to put the tax burden on the shoulders of the better-off.

North Sea oil meant there was an opportunity to overcome the failures to invest enough to invest in the right places and the tendency of British industry to invest in the destruction of jobs rather than in the expansion of output.

Mr Basnett concentrated much of his speech on unemployment, and gave a warning that if the immediate problem looked bad, the future problem might be disastrous because more and more people would be seeking an ever decreasing number of jobs.

Mr Basnett said that the lessons of the past few years, "during which the exercise of our power made a unique and significant contribution to the solution of society's economic problems", had to be absorbed.

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## Procedures for disputes are to be reviewed

A review of the TUC procedures governing disputes between unions and employers was being undertaken by the National Graphical Association. He said the Bridlington proceedings were clearly outlined.

The motion stated that the congress recognized the need to avoid disputes between unions and employers, and firmly believed that in-house disputes should be resolved within the trade union movement.

That increase in investment and growth in in-plant printing occurred when an increasing amount of printing was being done from the council and industry and when the employment of many union members would be put at risk. Unions were reluctant to agree to the recognition of printing unions in in-plant departments such as in local government, banks and insurance.

Mr Albert Spenswick, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, seconded the motion, said the union movement had changed dramatically since the disputes rules were introduced in 1958. There were now 115 affiliated unions with 11,900 members, and the congress should be looking at the union membership agreements.

There might be serious consequences without the recognition of the union movement of the principle of working together. The TUC General Council should set up the review, and establish guidelines to avoid disputes.

Christine Thomas, secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said the main effect of a seat on the general council on a members basis would change the balance of power in the council and change significantly its methods of working. The present trade group structure had served the movement well and, subject to fine tuning, would serve it well in the future.

Mr Bryan Stanley, secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, said it had been claimed that a change to the system might result in a more divided council, with leaders of larger unions acting purely in their own unions' interests. That was a reflection on the system which rejected the review of the structure of the general council.

There had been adequate consultation, and to ask them to start reconsideration again from square one was not good enough. All their arguments against major change had been set out in the special report, although it had been acknowledged that the present system was not perfect.

The motion was diametrically opposed to the recommendations of the special report. There were no reasons for not adopting it. Mr David Basnett, the TUC chairman, decided on a show of hands that the resolution was carried, but after protests. A card vote was held, which rejected the motion by 6,529,000 votes to 5,215,000.

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## Number earning less than benefit entitlement doubles

By Far Healy Social Services Correspondent

Poverty among full-time workers rose from 1974 and 1976, the Low Pay Unit, an independent research body, says in a report today. The three main political parties should respond by including in their election manifestos special measures to help the low-paid, the unit says.

The report analyses data from the Government's Family Expenditure Survey—released just before Parliament rose for the summer recess. The figures show that the number of full-time workers earning less than they would have been entitled to in supplementary benefit rose from 130,000 in 1974 to 290,000 in 1976. When the dependent was included, the number living on poverty wages grew from 360,000 to 698,000, an increase of 147 per cent.

Politicians have increasingly voiced their concern for those who work for their poverty, the report says. The widespread concern for the low-paid should now be translated into action.

The report also shows that the number of people living below the official poverty line increased from 1,410,000 in 1974 to 2,280,000 in 1976. By then, more than a quarter of the population lived on incomes up to only 40 per cent above the poverty line. In the same period, the number of unemployed living below the poverty level increased by 150 per cent.

The Rising Tide of Poverty (Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG, 50p).

Mr Frank Field, director of the unit and author of the report, says the striking increase in low-paid workers gives the lie to "the great scrounger myth of the 1970s".

"One could not have a more vivid demonstration of the power of the work ethic in our society than the fact that 290,000 wage earners put in a full week's work and earned an income which brought their household finances to below what they would be entitled to by supplementary benefit," he says.

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## More claims 'would create 2,500 jobs in Scotland'

At least 2,500 jobs would be created in Scotland if 100,000 people on the poverty line claimed and spent the government benefits and allowances they are entitled to, Mr Gordon Brown, former Rector of Edinburgh University, and Labour parliamentary candidate for Edinburgh, South, says in a study published this week.

Mr Brown is to ask Mr Frank McElhone, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, to allocate money to set up a welfare rights service, using mobile information centres, to help the public claim benefits.

According to his study, more than £60m in social benefits is unclaimed in Scotland every year, including £15m by the disabled. In mobility allowances, £100,000 of the £300,000 available is unclaimed. Mr Brown says that a majority of the disabled do not claim their full entitlement and the take-up of attendance allowances in Scotland is less than in England and half that of Wales.

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## OVERSEAS

## Optimism curbed as Washington waits Camp David conference on Middle East

From David Cross  
Washington, Sept 4

Senior members of the American Administration have been going to such lengths to explain that no significant breakthroughs are likely at this week's Camp David summit meeting that even the most modest achievement will be greeted here as having made the whole occasion worthwhile. During meetings with journalists last month, President Carter himself described his ambitions for the meeting at Camp David: "I do not anticipate being completely successful there," he told a press conference on August 17.

"But if we can get them (President Sadat of Egypt and Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister) to sit down and discuss honestly and sincerely their desires for peace, to explore the compatibilities among them, to identify very clearly the differences, then I think we can set a framework for peace in the future."

However, he said, the summit "may result only in a redetermination of commitment to subsequent negotiations." He made it clear, though, that such an outcome would disappoint him.

He also said he knew he was taking risks in convening such a meeting at Camp David, but he was certain that the "failure" of the summit would be the blame for that failure. "With his popularity in the American public opinion

polls still low, he must find such a prospect worrying. Since returning from his holidays last week, Mr Carter has been putting the final touches to the strategy he and his foreign policy advisers will be adopting at the discussions which are to open in earnest on Wednesday morning. The three heads of government will be arriving at Camp David tomorrow but are not expected to have any serious talks until the next day.

American officials, though only too willing to tell reporters how difficult they expect the deliberations to be, have been reluctant to give details of American thinking or predict the course of the talks. The general lack of authoritative information has led to all kinds of speculation.

One idea, which has been floating around for months but has gripped the imagination of the American media only in the past few days, is that the United States is considering offering security guarantees in the form of an American international peacekeeping force in parts of the occupied Arab territories. The rumours have caused the Soviet Union and the Israelis to reject the idea in advance of the summit, albeit for different reasons.

The Administration says reports of such plans at this point are "speculative and premature", while conceding that such a proposal could supplement a final peace agreement.

## Sadat talks in Paris on his way to US

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Sept 4

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt stopped in Paris for talks with President Giscard d'Estaing tonight on his way to Camp David for the meeting he has described as the last chance for peace in the Middle East.

The French President organized the evening so that he could have a long private discussion with his guest, first in his study and then over a working lunch. The rest of the large Egyptian party was entertained at the French Foreign Ministry and Mme Giscard d'Estaing entertained Mrs Sadat to dinner.

The French official view is that a settlement in the Middle East must depend on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the Palestinians getting their own country and security guarantees—offered by France—for all countries in the area, including Israel. There can be little doubt that the two officials were in agreement during their talks.

Robert Fisk writes from Beirut: President Sadat used his family vehicle of the semi-official Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram to repeat his contention today that the Camp David summit will be a turning point in the entire history of the Middle East. The talks with Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and President Carter would "determine the future of the area for many generations, either by peace or by endless struggle."

He said he would try to achieve peace between the Arabs and the Israelis and not a peace of separate agreements.

## Israeli terror alert on eve of summit

From Michael Knipe  
Jerusalem, Sept 4

Security precautions have been increased in Israel to guard against possible attacks aimed at coinciding with the Camp David summit meeting.

Army, police and civil defence units have been alerted, security surveillance in public places reinforced and extra road checkpoints mounted.

In the past few weeks there have been more than 15 attempted bombings, all but one foiled by public alertness.

A Japanese terrorist group is reported to have written to the Israeli Government threatening an act of sabotage unless Kozo Okamoto, a Japanese serving a life sentence for his part in the 1972 Lod airport massacre, is freed.

Dr Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, denied reports that he had called Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, a "grocer", and said other anti-Israeli remarks quoted by a Dutch newspaper were taken out of context.

Dr Kreisky was quoted by the Dutch Protestant newspaper *Trouw*, as saying that President Sadat of Egypt had expected a more positive response after his visit to Jerusalem, "but found himself deceived by little Polish lawyer, from Warsaw."

He was also quoted as saying that Israel was "a police state where Arabs are treated as second-class citizens" and that Israeli diplomats are "the most hated in the business"—UPI.

## Peking and Hanoi intensify their war of words

Peking, Sept 4.—China and Vietnam today stepped up their war of words over the position of Vietnam's ethnic Chinese population as they prepared for a fresh round of talks on the bitter dispute.

China accused Vietnam of intensifying its campaign against Peking in order to gain more money and munitions from the Soviet Union, while Vietnam claimed that the Chinese were planning to use the talks to intensify their campaign against Peking.

The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry also said in a statement, distributed by Hanoi's Embassy in Peking, that Chinese forces occupied a hill in Vietnam during a border incident last month.

Western diplomats said they were not certain whether the latest exchange represented a further decline in relations or whether the two countries were simply laying the groundwork for the fifth negotiating session since the talks opened in Hanoi on August 8.

So far the discussions have produced no agreement on who is to blame for the exodus of more than 160,000 ethnic Chinese from Vietnam in recent months.

Mr Chung Hsi-tung, China's chief delegate at the talks, who is a deputy Foreign Minister, flew back to Hanoi today after a week of consultations in Peking.

The dispute was aggravated by bloody incidents at the Friendship Pass border checkpoint on August 25. At the time, China claimed that after clashes in which a number of people were killed and 2,500 fled to China in panic, Vietnamese troops occupied a ridge and later dug in.

Vietnam denied this five days later. Today, it turned the charge around and said Chinese forces had occupied a hill in Vietnam.

"After being forced to withdraw their nibbling forces, the Chinese authorities brazenly charged that Vietnam occupied China's Bonien Ridge" and

## Threat by jailed journalist to fast until death

From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, Sept 4

Mr Minhaj Bano, president of Pakistan's Federal Union of Journalists and the Pakistan Newspaper Employees' Confederation, has threatened to fast to death unless the military Government frees jailed newspapermen and reinstates dismissed journalists.

Mr Bano, who was jailed for organizing the pressmen's strike in Karachi, gave the warning in a letter to General Zia-ul-Haq last week.

He is reported to have alleged that the 90 jailed newspapermen were being tortured and that he would start his fast on Friday if his demands were not met.

## Baluchi tribal chief backs National Awami leader

From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, Sept 4

Sardar Ataulah Mengal, the former Chief Minister of Baluchistan, has come out in defence of Mr Ghous Bux Bizenjo, the former Governor of Baluchistan and a leader of the outlawed National Awami Party, who has aired Baluchistan's grievances and pronounced its claim for greater provincial autonomy.

Sardar Mengal said no one among the Baluchis, Sindhis and Pathans had criticized Mr Bizenjo's statement except the politicians of one province. He was apparently referring to the Punjab.

Sardar Mengal regarded as a powerful tribal chief in Baluchistan was speaking at a reception in Karachi yesterday. He said that Baluchis did not have to seek certificates from others for being patriotic. If the people of Baluchistan were convinced that Pakistan was their homeland, they would be second to none in making



Packed to leave, thousands from Delhi's outskirts abandon homes, threatened by the Yamuna river, in background.

## Delhi suburbs evacuated as flood waters rise

From Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Sept 4

Indian police and Army units were today moving thousands of families living in Delhi's poorest sections from their vulnerable homes as the rising flood waters of the Yamuna river created more havoc in large areas of the adjacent Haryana state.

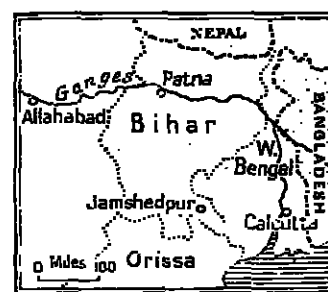
The evacuation of Delhi's poorest sections from their vulnerable homes was something of a race against time. The Yamuna, which comes down from Haryana, is likely to reach Delhi's outer suburbs by dawn tomorrow, flood control engineers believe. The extent of the risk will not be measurable, however, until the waters reach their height, probably on Wednesday.

The evacuees were being put up in requisitioned schools or in camps hastily set up and lacking electricity. If the monsoon rains that started here in late June return for a final lashing of the capital, these camps will have more problems and misery.

Delhi authorities have said the evacuation should move about 200,000 people to safety. In some of the threatened areas today there were complaints that the operation was slow and that army boats were not available or had not reached areas where villagers had already abandoned their flooded homes and were squatting on the roadsides in higher areas.

The Yamuna has inundated 120 villages in two areas of Haryana. The state's Chief Minister today flew by helicopter over the affected region and reported villages under six feet of water with half of the houses swept away in some cases. Other villages had become islands.

The grand trunk road at Karnal is threatened as the river is over its embankments in several



places. In Haryana medicines and cooked food were being dropped to isolated villages by army and air force helicopters.

The Delhi authorities have made public appeals for all sections of the community to help their brethren, but for the moment there is no sense of crisis in the capital. The Janata Party's national executive meeting yesterday belatedly urged the Government to prepare long-term flood measures. To

protect Delhi this would mean plans embracing catchment areas in adjacent states.

Our Calcutta Correspondent writes: Thousands of people are missing and many feared dead in the Midnapore, Bankura and Hooghly districts of West Bengal after flash floods. More than 1,000,000 people are affected and paratroopers are helping the civil administration to rescue marooned people.

Road and rail links have been disrupted, crops damaged over large areas and many cattle washed away. One report from Midnapore today said that about 15,000 people have been swept away by floods in the district and quotes local police as saying that hundreds of bodies have been seen floating in two swollen rivers.

Flooding in neighbouring Bihar and Orissa is also grave and there are reports of havoc in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh and the Punjab.

## Factual, extensive news coverage in good English

## Madras quality paper celebrates its hundredth anniversary

From Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Sept 4

Perhaps its masthead claim to be India's national newspaper. It would most likely lose some of its distinctiveness if it did.

One of the ironies of the Indian press today, however, is that the Delhi bureau of *The Hindu* produces easily the best overall coverage of whatever is significant news in the capital. It is usually well worth waiting until the newspaper arrives in Delhi, unhurried, in the afternoon.

*The Hindu* was started in September, 1878, as an English-language weekly publication by a group of six young Madras intellectuals who were all Brahmins. It began modestly enough, not even having initially a fixed address, charmingly telling its readers that it could be reached "care of the postmaster". It was soon bought by the Kasturba family which, three generations have owned, managed and edited it, with the newspaper remaining the family's sole economic activity.

The title is something of a misnomer for a Madras-based newspaper, and it was not based as a vehicle of Brahminism. Its founders were merely following the loose Victorian use of the word to mean Indians.

Today the newspaper has a stated daily circulation of 280,000 and in addition to Madras is printed by facsimile in Bombay, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Coimbatore and soon from a fifth provincial

centre in order to cover the whole of the south.

To some readers its leading articles are too cautious. *The Hindu* neither resisted the emergency of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, like *The Statesman*, nor rejoiced in the Janata victory like the *Indian Express*. Instead, it soberly predicted all the Janata Party's recent difficulties.

But in the past few weeks, on India's most searching social problem, caste, *The Hindu* has refrained from the handwringing and spooked more precisely than most of its contemporaries.

After the vilipend killings in Madras state last month, one leading article drew up a list of social and economic measures to take part in life as equals. It said that police protection must come before the outbreaks, not afterwards, and be seen as only temporary measures while structures and attitudes changed. In a second leading article *The Hindu* blamed both "hard-hearted sections of society" and the politicians for exploiting the Harijans (formerly known as "untouchables").

With 57 per cent of its readership in the age group of 15 to 34, *The Hindu* clearly does not expect that its views will always find approval among the better educated young southerners who are impatient with its basic philosophy of slow, orderly evolution for society.

Today the newspaper has a stated daily circulation of 280,000 and in addition to Madras is printed by facsimile in Bombay, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Coimbatore and soon from a fifth provincial

## Anti-war protesters arrested at Kremlin

Moscow, Sept 4.—Seven young Americans today staged a disarmament demonstration outside the Kremlin but their banner was promptly ripped down by police.

As squads of uniformed and plainclothes police moved in on the Red Square demonstrators, who were chanting in Russian "Peace and friendship", other police seized Western reporters and cameramen filming the scene.

The Americans were all members of the New York-based War Resisters' League, who arrived in Moscow at the weekend on a tourist visit.

The group opened a banner proclaiming in Russian "USSR and USA—disarm" just as the guard was being changed at the Lenin mausoleum a few yards away. Two other protesters, one on each side of the square, threw Russian-language leaflets into the air calling for disarmament by the two super-powers.

At first the police did not appear to be planning to arrest the demonstrators and seemed to concentrate on seizing correspondence. When one of the demonstrators, Jerry Coffin, a 33-year-old broadcaster from New York, approached a policeman repeating in Russian "Peace and friendship", he was also seized and taken off to a cell.

Washington, Sept 4.—Secret service agents today arrested a group of demonstrators, members of the War Resisters' League who broke away from a tour of the White House and the north lawn, urging the United States and the Soviet Union to "disarm now."

The demonstrators said an affiliated group conducted the demonstration in Moscow. The Washington Post said the group included an English-language translation of the documents distributed at the Kremlin.—UPI.

## Seoul blast deaths

Seoul, Sept 4.—A gas explosion in a block of flats in southern Seoul killed five people and injured about 40, several seriously.

## Flowers for Iran troops as Ramadan ends

From Our Correspondent  
Tehran, Sept 4

Thousands of religious demonstrators took to the streets of the Iranian capital with flowers instead of weapons today, to mark the end of the often-violent month of Ramadan in Iran. They placed flowers on the hundreds of troops and police on duty.

Both sides it appears, came under heavy pressure not to repeat clashes that have left possibly hundreds killed in demonstrations throughout the Islamic month of fasting. Last Friday night, for example, witnesses reported between 50

and 100 deaths in Tehran rioting.

For the first time in Tehran for many years, Id al-Fitr prayers were held in the streets of the city for next Thursday, also a day of mourning for victims of last Friday's rioting, and shopkeepers have been warned that their premises will be set on fire if they oppose the Shah's rule.

The troops and police were plainly nervous as the huge crowds passed, but they showed exceptional restraint compared to recent days and the demonstrations passed peacefully. Religious sources, how-

## Argentina gears itself for war against Chile

From Tony Emerson  
Buenos Aires, Sept 4

The Beagle Channel dispute between Argentina and Chile over the sovereignty of three small islands near Cape Horn is reaching an impasse, despite the renewal of talks agreed for September 13, and the Argentine Government does not intend to be caught unawares if the matter is taken to the stage of armed confrontation.

When an international tribunal last year awarded the islands to Chile, the Argentines were willing to accept the verdict on condition that the offshore waters on the Atlantic side were recognized as Argentine by a special protocol.

Such a solution would have been compatible with previous treaties confirming Chile as a Pacific power and Argentina as an Atlantic one.

However, President Pinochet of Chile used the award to claim Atlantic offshore waters stretching nearly as far as the South Georgia islands, and to enlarge the Chilean sector of Antarctica. Such an expansionist move was totally unacceptable to the Argentine Government,

which declared the verdict null and void.

In February a programme for bilateral negotiations, covering the points apart from the Beagle dispute, was agreed at a summit meeting at Puerto Montt in Chile. The negotiating teams were given until November 2 to reach their conclusions.

Unfortunately the negotiators' freedom of action has been circumscribed by the speeches of their political masters. Within minutes of the Puerto Montt agreement being signed, General Pinochet delivered an aggressive and uncompromising harangue. Since then, flag days in both countries have been liberally spiced with Latin American rhetoric on the theme of sovereignty not being a negotiable commodity.

By now too many generals in both countries would have to eat their words even to accept the original Argentine compromise, and inevitably the question arises whether diplomacy may not have to be carried on by other means.

Within Argentina the Navy is the most hawkish of the forces, since it had had to bear the brunt of Chilean teasing in the Beagle area. Every naval officer who has served on the Ushuaia station in the Beagle Channel has a personal score to settle with the Chileans.

But all the services are rearing themselves to the possibility of conflict. Training programmes for this year's batch of conscripts have been greatly intensified and the ordnance factories are producing more than the peacetime quota of ammunition.

The Government has taken a generous amount of commercial time on television for propaganda spots, no longer against the guerrillas but on the theme of "national sovereignty and territorial rights."

The strategic implications of a serious war are dramatic. In Patagonia the Chileans enjoy the logistic advantages for a quick aggressive war, and have the bait of Argentina's only coal fields at Rio Turbio and the rich oil deposits around Comodoro Rivadavia. But in the north, Peru and Bolivia are only too eager to recover the copper-bearing desert provinces captured by Chile in the Pacific war.

Over the past three months there has been intensive liaison between the general staffs of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, and it would be quite beyond Chile's power to fight a war on two fronts.

In Argentina, most people in government trust that a confrontation, if it becomes necessary, will take the form of a nineteenth-century duel, with both parties firing to miss and then being able to reach a settlement with honour satisfied. But they doubt if any deal is possible with a man like General Pinochet, whom they regard as an expansionist autocrat.

Indeed the personality of Chile's President is seen as the key to the problem. Diplomats hold him responsible for rejecting the original compromise. Naval hawk calculate that no Western power could possibly support him against his more respectable neighbours. Doves hope that internal pressures in Chile will replace him with a man like the recently-dismissed General Leigh of the Air Force.

## Indochina refugees set problem for UN envoy

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok, Sept 4

Mr Paul Hartling, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, arrived here today to view at first hand a problem that is growing larger every day—the increasing number of refugees leaving communist Indochina.

About 9,000 refugees are now leaving Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia every day, twice the rate of early 1978.

After discussions with the Thai Government and visits to refugee camps, Mr Hartling will go to Laos and Vietnam, from where most of the refugees are coming. He will later visit Malaysia and Singapore.

Since the end of the Indochina war three and a half years ago, 250,000 people have fled and perhaps another one million have since been uprooted from their homes by the Vietnam-Cambodia border conflict and other disturbances.

Mr Hartling's most pressing concern is the 140,000 refugees now in South-east Asian camps—115,000 of them in Thailand. Only 3,000 a month are being resettled outside the region, most of them in the United States, Australia and France. Thus the departures are being outnumbered three to one by new arrivals.

The Thais, who feel they are bearing more than their fair share of the burden, are urging Mr Hartling to organize an international conference to rally world opinion in favour of a global settlement of the problem on an equitable basis. Otherwise, they say, the refugees will soon present political security problems that will cause fresh instability in South-East Asia.

General Kriangsak Chamanand, the Thai Prime Minister, will this week ask Mr Pham Van Dong, the visiting Vietnamese Prime Minister, to do more to prevent refugees from leaving Vietnam by boat. The movement of Vietnamese troops to the Cambodian and Chinese border in recent months has made escape easier but at the same time there is little evidence that the Vietnamese authorities are doing much to stop refugees leaving.

The refugees, who are an economic and social problem for Thailand, will be an issue at the forthcoming general election. General Kriangsak has said he would never force them to leave Thailand, but another prime minister may have different views.

As part of a global plan, Thailand would probably be ready to offer permanent residence to a substantial number of refugees in return for matching commitments by other countries. The Thais would also require considerable international aid to reclaim poor land for the refugees to farm.

A Western diplomat in Bangkok recently said that most of the refugees would end up in the United States, Australia and France, as there was nowhere else for them to go. That is the position now, for Canada is the only other country with a significant intake programme.

United Nations experts believe much more could be done to help refugees by most of Western Europe, notably Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Austria and Sweden, and by Japan, New Zealand and Singapore.

No communist country has accepted refugees or contributed to United Nations funds to help them.

Doctors decide there will be no more neurosis

New York, Sept 4.—Neurosis, as a definition of psychological disorder, will be excluded from the third edition, to be published next year, of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, a standard reference work for American psychiatrists and psychologists.

"The term neurosis has been used in so many different ways that we believe it no longer has a very precise meaning," one psychiatrist who fought for its exclusion said.

Instead the manual will use the word "anxiety disorder," referring to "major depressive disorders, anxiety disorders and others."—Agence France-Presse.







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## Energy shortage horizon keeps receding

by Michel Godet

Alarmist reports about prospects for the world's energy, and for hydrocarbon resources in particular, have become common. The much-publicized Central Intelligence Agency report of April 1977, the Istanbul conference in September of the same year and the conclusions of a recent report from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are examples. According to the last of these, "the time is now in sight (before the end of the century) when world oil production will level off, and then decline. This is a major phenomenon in relation to the recent past."

This forecast, which is pessimistic to say the least, implies that the biggest and most profitable oilfields have already been discovered. In that case, the need to resort to new sources of energy appears inevitable, to cope with the increase in world consumption, even though the rate of increase is expected to be slower than hitherto.

At the present rate of production, the countdown of the oil era has started: 25, 20 or even 15 years according to some estimates. An era is coming to an end; another is starting.

Having supplanted coal during the 1960s, oil in turn, according to this view, is now about to experience its own decline. The spectre of an energy shortage and the lack of short-term profitability from new energy sources argue in favour of a takeover by nuclear energy and strengthen the case of those who want to see the opposition to nuclear energy fade into insignificance. But what if they were wrong?

Let a dissenting voice cast doubt on the pessimistic forecasts about the reserves of hydrocarbons. These forecasts suit the short-term interests of those companies and governments which are so concerned to justify the need for further research and investment in alternative energy resources.

They are the same people who in the 1960s hastened the decline of coal by reducing oil prices, although coal resources are at least five or six times as large as those of oil, can be worked economically and are widely distributed around the world (admittedly coal creates appreciable problems of pollution).

Lack of impartiality is not the only obstacle to accuracy in forecasting. Is it not true that "announcing an imminent energy shortage" today is the best way of creating the conditions for a surplus tomorrow? This is one of many classic sources of error in prediction.

In 1972, before what has become known as the "energy crisis", energy consumption forecasts were made on the assumption of a continuation of the downward trend in the relative price of oil until 1980-85. Forecasters have short memories; an event which they did not forecast, the quadrupling of oil prices, should have discredited a number of forecasting methods which have become obsolete. Extrapolation of trends has demonstrated itself to be an ineffective method.

The present energy crisis is not the first suffered by the West. In 1928 serious consideration was already being given to coal gasification and exploitation of shale oil deposits, but instead of the shortage predicted, there was an energy glut. The discovery of oil in the Middle East during the years which followed explains this error but does not justify it, since it was caused by lack of imagination and thought about the future.

After the Suez crisis in 1956, an ambitious development programme for coal and nuclear energy was launched, but has not been carried through.

These lessons from the history of energy raise an essential question: are we not again looking at the future with eyes blinkered by the present? The function of a prospective approach is to identify those phenomena in the present

which provide pointers to the future, even if they disturb the comfort of received ideas (like the energy shortage today). Several pointers suggest, if not that there is going to be an energy glut, at least that there are grounds for considerable doubt about the pessimism of the most official forecasts.

The era of cheap energy is behind us, but costly energy does not necessarily mean scarce energy. The foreseeable increase in oil prices during the 1980s (Shaikh Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Minister for Oil, has said that "it would be prudent to expect the price of oil to be more than \$25 a barrel by 1990") will inevitably lead, as in 1974, to a substantial increase in the deposits which can be worked economically and to a reduction in demand.

The scope for saving energy can be measured in terms of waste. Less than half the primary energy consumed in the United States at present is used to good purpose: the rest is wasted.

The pattern of energy consumption also depends on the economic growth rate. It is reasonable to expect a fall of some 20 per cent over the period to the year 2000 in the elasticity of demand for energy in relation to national income, and a continuation of the slowing down of the world economy. For all these reasons, demand for energy should be lower than forecast.

The optimists do not consider demand. They look at supply and proclaim that abundance is around the corner, in the belief that new finds and technological progress are going to keep oil output rising, while coal-mining is going to expand again.

Has not the new oil eldorado been signposted by the recent discoveries in the Orinoco Basin in Venezuela, which are estimated to be twice as large as the Saudi Arabian reserves, or more than half the present resources of the free world? And what of the prospects of a Mexican oil glut?

The limits of the reserves, like the horizon, recede as we approach them. The explanation lies not so much in new oil strikes as in the distinction between proved reserves and resources. The proved reserves are those quantities which it is known beyond doubt can be produced now from existing oil wells under the present economic and technological conditions. The resources are the estimated total of the existing quantities, only part of which can be exploited under present conditions.

This distinction leads to a number of observations, all of which lend credence to the abundance theory. First, the proved reserves, that is those known to be recoverable, are invariably underestimated in as much as they take no account of probable reserves. On average, nearly twice as much oil and gas as was originally estimated is finally extracted from the wells.

Second, under present technical conditions only 25 per cent to 30 per cent on average of the oil in a well is extracted. According to some experts, improvements in secondary and tertiary recovery could bring the figure up to 50 per cent or even 60 per cent thereby doubling the proved reserves.

Third, about 50 per cent of the world's sedimentary basins are under the sea at depths of more than 200 metres and are not included in most estimates of resources.

Fourth, there is every chance of a change in economic conditions.

Although the price of oil has quadrupled since 1973, it is still fairly cheap (\$12 a barrel) and, according to some estimates, alignment with the prices of substitutes would lead to its being doubled. There is therefore reason to expect substantial further increases in energy prices and the shortage predicted to start from 1983-85 could well be engineered to make it easier to raise the price.

Although the experts are

divided on the quantities which can be recovered at various price levels, they are more or less agreed that, at \$25 a barrel, the viable reserves become nine times larger than at \$10 a barrel.

Besides the conventional sources—including gas, the proved reserves of which will last for another 50 years at the present rate of consumption, and exploration is only beginning—a new hydrocarbon era is in the making with non-conventional sources (shale, tar sands and so on) which offer outstanding prospects since, if they were taken into account, the conventional oil resources would be multiplied by three, four or more. The outlook here, however, as in the case of coal, looks less rosy in the light of the many technological, economic and, above all, ecological obstacles.

Knowledge about these sources is still in its infancy and the possibilities seem limitless. One example is provided by the recent discovery of "geopressure zones". These are vast reserves of methane and vapour lying at great depths, under great pressure and at high temperature. The one found in the Gulf of Mexico is thought to cover an area of 375,000 sq km and to contain by itself the equivalent of the American coal reserves.

Moreover, most of the conventional methane already produced is thought to have come from formed geosynclinal zones and there are said to be at least 40 sites around the world comparable to the one in the Gulf of Mexico.

The need to take account of these new resources becomes all the more urgent in the light of the uncertainty—and, in some countries, unpromising outlook for nuclear energy, which is widely regarded as the natural alternative to oil.

It could be that hydrocarbons will not only succeed oil, but lengthen its lease of life until the advent of inexhaustible sources of energy. If this

continued on facing page



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## Women's call to help small businesses

Hans Baumann

A world's women industrialists are up in arms. They are ed of being branded as exploiters or "proletarians". They want the United States of the European Community intensify their efforts to encourage small and medium-sized businesses. They want, not just plain affirmations of faith in the social market economy.

Five hundred woman heads of businesses from 11 different countries recently met in Hamburg, and underlined their importance as employers of labour in their respective countries by revealing that small and medium-sized businesses, spreading on the country and the region, account for between 60 and 90 per cent of all jobs. They complain that employment is caused first and foremost by big business and the multinational corporations. Without the contribution of small and medium-sized businesses there can be no hope of reducing unemployment, the World Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (WFME) says. It has headquarters in Paris and was founded in 1946 by Madame Foinant, the owner of a machine tool factory in the Ardennes.

Madame Foinant was the first French businesswoman to be made a Grand Officer of the Legion d'Honneur, and long before any politician had been heard to mention the word Europe had been hard at work on the exchange of experiences. She is still president of the world federation.

There was no mincing of words among these militant businesswomen, all presidents of their national associations, when Europe asked them for a statement. Yvonne Foinant, France, said: "For a long time the word business has conjured up the picture of a gigantic system with no feeling of involvement and no feeling of responsibility. But directed by a general staff with all that is implied by the absence of personal responsibilities. In France there are 1,676 large enterprises, employing 1,780,000 people, and 15,000 small and medium-sized businesses employing 4,500,000, which together contribute 78 per cent of the revenue from taxation. Yet the laws are made for big business, which causes vast unemployment through mass dismissals."

"Young people going into business are showing signs of wanting to move in a new direction. Those leaving university and technical college are now far less keen on taking jobs with large concerns, but prefer to go into medium-sized or even small businesses, where they can be in direct contact with management and have a say in the decision-making process."

"The French FCE is firmly behind the many young French people who would like to start up a business of their own, and so rectify the present incongruous situation where there are 10,200,000 French men and women who would like to start a business of their own but only 123,000 who have managed to put their ambitions into practice."

Claudia Matta, Italy, said: "In Italy 68.7 per cent of employees are with businesses employing only up to 500 people. As in France and Germany, it is these businesses that provide the majority of jobs. The industrial giants are on the whole static organizations, whereas there is far more innovation and flexibility in small and medium-sized businesses which are the direct responsibility of the entrepreneur."

"Many of the giants have been able to survive in our country only through state subsidies, through being allowed to operate as monopolies. In many cases it is entirely their doing that protective tariffs are enforced. The result is the many examples we see today of businesses going downhill."

J. Bindt-De Haan, Holland, said: "The biggest employers in our country are the state and local government, which together give employment to 2,300,000 people. Small and medium-sized businesses have 1,500,000 on the payroll, while big business has 800,000. We are now witnessing the phenomenon that the side of industry that employs the least numbers is the one that lays down the working conditions for the majority of the working population, since wage and salary levels in the public sector and in small and medium-sized enterprises are determined by big business."

"Consequently, for small businesses in particular, it is becoming harder and harder to find the money for investment in new labour-saving plant, so that it is impossible for them

to come up to the productivity levels of the big concerns."

"Free enterprise must press the Government to change the system for calculation of the social wage. The amount paid in social wages should no longer be determined on the basis of the total payroll, but a different method should be introduced, so that labour-intensive undertakings are no longer penalized in comparison with those that are capital-intensive."

L. Van Den Schrik, Belgium, said: "The disappearance of many small and medium-sized businesses was systematically organized. But governments in every country are now turning to the ones that have survived, since despite the turmoil and the ups-and-downs they have been through these smaller businesses can be relied on more than the others as providers of jobs."

"Suddenly the discovery has been made that small and medium-sized enterprises are the spearhead of the economy, and they are now being offered financial support. It is now recognized that, serious though it is when businesses are forced to close, it is catastrophic when no new companies are formed in their place. Everybody's shuttles only a short while ago, free enterprise is now perceived as the last hope for keeping craft industry alive."

C. Dutton, United Kingdom, said: "Of our 88,000 companies, 85,000 employ fewer than 200 people. Free enterprise has an important part to play, since it is its nature to prevent the squandering of time and money. We have 1,600,000 unemployed, yet skilled labour is not to be had. We need a return to craft working with apprenticeship facilities, but at present this can be found only with small and medium-sized businesses, most of which are frustrated by official red tape. A third of the national workforce is employed in the public sector. The nationalized industries are the worst squanders of resources. Free enterprise must use all its skill and inventiveness to try to put a stop to it."

One Handler, Austria, said: "Any three of all businesses in the private sector is run by women. At a time when what prosperity there is is due to business enterprise, the image presented by business has been steadily losing its glamour. At the same time, two thirds of profits are now skimmed off in taxes, so that there is no chance of ploughing them back into the business, with the result that large numbers of jobs are at risk."

"In our country two thirds of all employees are in the private sector; yet, despite this, private enterprise continues to be given a bad name. There is no historical inevitability about this development in the United States, for example, employers enjoy a better reputation than the trade unions." Dr. Lothar Leins, West Germany, said: "It is the small and medium-sized businesses, not the multinationals, that are central to our market economy system. More than 60 per cent of the total labour force are given their training and take up jobs in small and medium-sized enterprises. It is very gratifying to hear the ministries concerned saying such nice things about us, but in practice the bureaucrats are more hindrance than help."

"Over the past five years more firms have gone out of business - than have been started. Private entrepreneurs have been mugged about far too long without anything being done about it. Small and medium-sized business has every right to demand equal opportunities for competing with the introduction of a suitably formulated law on monopolies, legislation favouring small and medium-sized business, and more support for research."



## Home is the hunter

by James Rothman

Shopping is perhaps the modern equivalent of hunting. It is, however, the woman rather than the man who returns home with the spoils. Households in Italy tend to be larger than those in France and the United Kingdom. In Germany, on the other hand, they are smaller. This means that expenditure for each household in Italy is rather higher than one would expect from gross national product per capita statistics, whereas in Germany it is lower.

Food is the most important item in household shopping. According to statistics provided by Euromonitor Publications, it takes 49 per cent of household expenditure in Italy, 38 per cent in the United Kingdom, 36 per cent in Germany and 29 per cent in France. Both because food is so important and because of the way in which the grocery trade has expanded its sales of non-food items, grocery shops take an important share of money spent. In all the Europe countries' grocery non-food turnover is lower than the food sales of non-grocery outlets such as butchers and greengrocers.

Italy still comes closest to maintaining the tradition of the small old-fashioned grocery store. There Nielsen estimates show that the average shop serves about three hundred people compared with more than five hundred in the other three countries. France is the country where the shopper is faced with the greatest contrast between small grocers and hypermarkets. Two per cent of French grocers take more than half the grocery trade. In the United Kingdom the largest 2 per cent of grocery stores take little over a third of the trade compared with a quarter in Germany and a fifth in Italy.

On the other hand most French shops are quite small. If we exclude the largest 10 per cent of stores in each country, the average turnover of the remaining 90 per cent of French grocers is lower than that of the corresponding British ones. In October, 1975, one of the regular surveys which Gallup International conducts for the EEC included questions on attitudes towards shopping. When Europeans go shopping for food, the check which they are most likely to make concerns not their purchases but their change. Next to counting one's change, three other practices are equally common. These are to check the bill, the unit price and information on the pack about ingredients and freshness dates.

Checking the amount weighed is less common than these other practices in all the

Europe countries except Italy. The Italian shopper checks the weight more frequently than the pack; this probably reflects the extent to which food is sold loose in that country. The French are particularly avid readers of labels whereas the Germans are most likely to check unit prices.

The French tend to be most sceptical about the shopping ability of their fellows. Those polled were more inclined to agree that most people let themselves be influenced mainly by advertising and that most people thought a higher price nearly always meant better quality than that most people were very careful about what they bought and thought before deciding. In the other Europe countries these attitudes were reversed, with respondents being more inclined to agree that most people were careful shoppers than that they were swayed by advertising or prestige prices.

On the other hand it is the Italians who feel that they are least well informed as shoppers, while the Germans have the greatest degree of confidence in their shopping ability. In spite of the growth of comparative testing, people in all the Europe countries were found to be less confident about buying consumer durables than about shopping for food. Presumably this reflects the fact that food purchases are made regularly, so that experience is acquired as one goes along, while a particular durable may be bought only once or twice in a lifetime.

At the time the survey was carried out inflation was fiercer than it is today. A question was asked: "If prices continue to rise at the same rate over the next few months, which of the following would you definitely, probably, or not decide to do?" The responses most commonly indicated were shopping around for cheaper goods, postponing major purchases and buying special offers or sale goods.

The three responses which were chosen least often were to draw on existing savings, to work overtime or try to find a second job, and to stop trying to put aside savings. Returners and economists would probably agree that consumers did indeed respond to inflation by shopping more keenly and postponing major purchases rather than by using savings or working harder. One group of possible responses dealt with five specific economies that might be made: postponing major purchases; reducing expenditure on clothes, entertainment or holidays and preparing cheaper meals. Answers to these were uniform and suggested that the Italians were the most inclined

to combat inflation by reducing consumption and the French the least. In total, responses to inflation in order of likelihood were: to try to buy more cheaply, to make specific economies, to join forces with other consumers, and finally to reduce savings or do more work.

The British showed no deviations from this overall pattern. Of the other countries the French were relatively more inclined to draw on or cease to make savings and less likely to attempt to buy more cheaply by shopping around or seeking out special offers or sale goods. The Germans, on the other hand, were more likely to try to buy more cheaply and less willing to join with other consumers to obtain more information or defend their interests.

The Italians were the nation most prone to make specified economies, to join with other consumers and to try to earn more through overtime or second jobs. They were, however, less inclined to say they would reduce their savings.

### Household sizes

	Average size of household	Percentage of households with One person only	Five persons or more
Germany	2.6	29	10
UK	3.0	18	14
France	3.1	21	17
Italy	3.4	11	24

Source: European Marketing Data & Statistics, Euromonitor Publications.

### Grocers—1976

	Number of stores (1)	Total grocery sales \$'000	Sales per store \$'000	Stores per 1,000 pop.	Self-service share of sales	Share of largest 2% of stores
France	101	30	296	1.9	86%	52%
Germany	111	34	303	1.8	90%	26%
Italy	171	10	58	3.1	25%	22%
UK	95	16	163	1.8	75%	38%

(1) At January 1, 1977

Source: A. C. Nielsen Co, The Grocery Marketing Scene No 3.

### Checks made when shopping for food

When you shop for food do you often, seldom or never check:

	France	Germany	Italy	UK
Your change	80	87	77	81
The final bill	57	59	66	55
Indications on label, packing (ingredients, date of freshness)	78	55	39	60
The amount weighed	8	1	44	24

(1) Average score: often = 100, seldom = 0, never = -100.

### Opinions on shopping ability

Most people: (1)	France	Germany	Italy	UK
are very careful about what they buy and think before deciding	57	71	72	74
let themselves be influenced mainly by advertising	70	54	59	60
think a higher price nearly always means better quality	68	67	60	59

Do you feel that consumers like you have sufficient information: (2)

to make major purchases like furniture, household appliances, television, cars, etc. when shopping for food	45	56	28	42
	53	60	36	53

(1) percentage agreeing

(2) percentage saying "Sufficiently well informed"

Source: Le Consommateur Européen. EEC. Survey conducted by Gallup International

## Energy shortage horizon keeps receding

continued from facing page

ere so, it would become much less necessary and less urgent to switch to nuclear power.

Would this mean that some of all atomic power stations could become redundant, serving no purpose other than to fuel further debates on energy options?

This is a complicated question in as far as nuclear power, like all alternative sources, helps to provide the flexibility which the energy system needs to maintain in the face of an uncertain future.

The hypothetical prospect of an abundance of hydrocarbon resources still does not not eliminate the possibility of a serious energy crisis caused either by political factors (such as an oil embargo) or, more especially by technical factors.

The time scales involved in bringing new deposits into production mean that procrastination today could lead to a serious shortage of capacity by 1985 or thereafter.

Are we due for a surplus or a dearth? This remains an open question, but the more prudent option is to prepare for the worst rather than to hope for the best. It is surely better to reject foregone conclusions, cultivate scepticism, adopt a flexible strategy and avoid mortgaging our future by taking irreversible decisions.

M. Godet is the author of *Crisis de la Prévision, essai de la Prospective Presses Universitaires de France 1977*, published in English by Pergamon, USA in 1978 under the title *Crisis of Forecasting and Emergence of Prospective Methods*.

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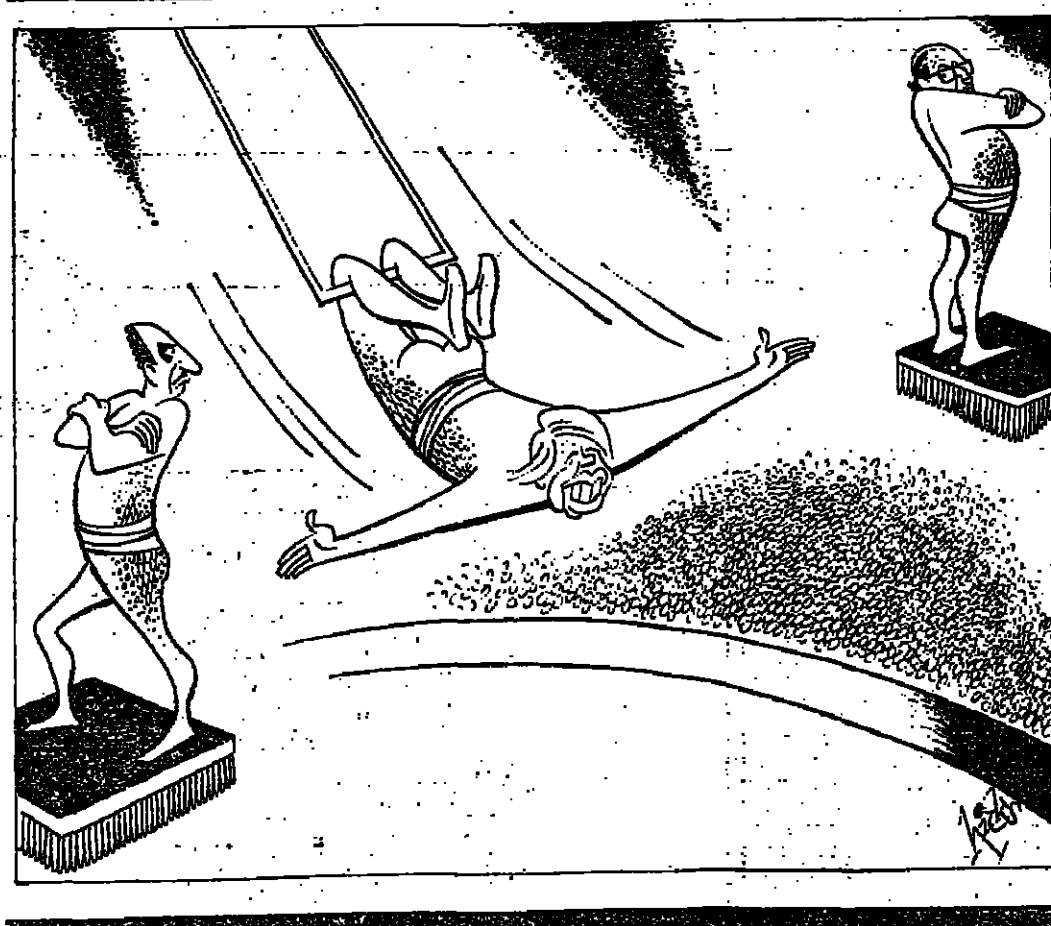
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## THE ARTS

## Edinburgh Festival Fringe

## Ned Chaillet

It was a year for different kinds of nostalgia. Around the fringe there were two separate incarnations of one of the martyrs of the 1960s, Lenny Bruce. Oscar Wilde also appeared in two separate guises, and George Bernard Shaw, although left among the dead, seems to have dictated a new play to a medium. Fanny Brice, D. H. Lawrence, Gertrude Stein and Louis Stevenson are all walking among the living in Edinburgh and plays by Terence Rattigan are as much in evidence as experimental ideas based on Grotowski's ideas.

Fran Landesman, in an eccentric and entertaining reading of her song lyrics at the bookshop, Better Books, suggested that the trend towards nostalgia would soon result in people being nostalgic about lunchtime rolled around. She had a song for that as she had a song for her memories of movies and movie stars, young men and her American life. She even introduced a living spectre of the 1960s, that elusive spirit, Jim Haynes, founder of the short-lived and influential Arts Lab in Drury Lane, and now a reader of his manuscripts of sexual and spiritual liberation.

Haynes had already returned to Paris before another wave of poets, including the Liverpool poets Brian Patten and Adrian Henri, arrived on the scene. Audiences of his readings by Scottish poets and

the Barrow Poets suggest that if fringe theatre is losing its experimental impetus, it may be poetry and not rituals of Rattigan that will attract the young public.

It was odd to see the crowds queuing to watch the death throes of Lenny Bruce, not because the two productions were not good, for both are powerful, but because what was on offer was mainly the end of his life. The attraction of the man dying of paranoia, persecution and drugs is somehow more socially acceptable than the man alive and well, lyrical and profane in praise of sex and liberty and viciously funny about bigotry.

Paul Bennett's impersonation, a one-man show from the Project Arts Centre, Dublin, offers more of the original material, the classic comic "bits" that have grown a little familiar since Bruce's death, but which Mr Bennett infuses with wry clarity. Even now, the comedy has an outrageous insight into taboo, making perverse humour out of the idea of popular medical causes by suggesting, for instance, a television campaign against venereal disease, with testimonials about gonorrhoea like those about lung cancer, or heart disease.

For the routines, Mr Bennett is Bruce at the top of his form, in tuxedo, appearing before a sophisticated nightclub audience. His timing is not as sharp as Bruce's, his Dublin accent puts through the American speech at times and he is shackled by a fidelity to the original material. He is, however, impressively accurate, and handles Bruce's destruction with his own shocking decline

after the interval, responding to the prosecutions for drugs and obscenity, the loss of his career and income, with an hysterical need.

John Cassidy's performance in *The Gospel According to Lenny* only occasionally touches on the original material. The script, by Keith Wood, is an evocation of a performance during the decline, springing from Bruce's themes and obsessions with only a few of the most apt and legendary phrases, such as drugs being friendly, not dangerous, appearing in the new material.

It gives the performance a greater fluidity, a feeling of harrowing reality. Mr Cassidy stumbles over his thoughts, lets one anecdote slip away as he thinks of a story about Christ or John Kennedy. The words are not as funny as Bruce's own, but they follow the same process, aim at the same targets and are constantly haunted by his fear of jail and his perception of police in the audience.

As a joke, Mr Cassidy falls down, but he stays down, mulling irrationally into his microphone about junkies who fall down and who are no longer funny. His trick is to remain funny while exposing the ghosts that haunt Bruce, to make a weariness that leads Bruce to sit among the audience, seem a joke at the same time as it shows a collapse of strength.

Like Van Gogh, whom Artaud described as a man "suicided by society", Bruce was driven to his death by the American society through the American speech at times and he is shackled by a fidelity to the original material. He is, however, impressively accurate, and handles Bruce's destruction with his own shocking decline

## The variety of Romney

Romney is usually placed a poor third in the triumvirate of eighteenth-century portrait painters. Gainsborough and Reynolds disputing first place between them. All three are well represented in the Ivesh Bequest at Kenwood, and it is therefore highly appropriate that the London showing of *Drawings by George Romney* from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, should be held there. It runs until September 3, after which it will be seen at Southampton Art Gallery (September 9-October 8), the Civic Museum and Art Gallery, Bolton (October 14-November 11) and the MacRobert Art Gallery, Stirling (November 18-December 17).

Many of the Romney drawings in the collection were presented to the newly-founded museum by the Rev John Romney, the painter's son, in 1818, but as Patricia Jaffé, in her carefully researched and elegantly produced catalogue, points out, this basic nucleus has been considerably increased over the years by judicious buying, as well as by further gifts and bequests. Peter and Linda Murray, in their invaluable *Dictionary of Art and Artists* dismiss Romney's drawings as "execrable", which is not only unkind, but untrue, certainly as far as those in the exhibition are concerned. They impress by their extraordinary variety ranging from the Rococo delicacy of his female nude studies executed in Rome but (rightly noted by Mrs Jaffé) thoroughly French in manner, to the astonishing freedom of his studies in men and wash, such as that of *Ennui* after *Medea* slaying a child.

Lady Hamilton (as she became) was of course Romney's most famous sitter, and numerous studies of her are included in the exhibition, notably a compulsion study for *The Spinster*, the final version of which, in oil on canvas, belongs to the permanent collection at Kenwood and has been hung above the chimney-piece in the largest exhibition room. It was originally intended for Emma's early protector, Charles Greville, but by the time it was finished she had gone to Naples and he was happy to relinquish his claim, in February, 1788, and the picture was bought by Mr Curwen for 150 guineas.



Head of Satan, drawing by Romney

Romney, by then in his mid-50s, was at the height of his popularity as a portrait painter, living in Cavendish Square and regarded as the rival of Reynolds. Inevitably, he wanted to enhance his status by attempting historical subjects, and the launching of the Shakespeare Gallery scheme by Alderman Boydell gave him the opportunity: choosing the storm scene from *The Tempest* as his theme he laboured for four years (1786-90) but the result was not a success, and the artist had the added humiliation of receiving only 600 guineas, compared with the 1,000 paid to Sir Joshua. Only fragments of the huge picture survive (at Bolton), but four preparatory studies are exhibited, as well as others for *Margery Jourdain* and *Bolton's conjuring up the Fiend*, in which he was beaten to the commission by John Opie, 27 years his junior, *Macbeth* (the Banquet scene and various scenes involving the witches) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

A number of remarkable scenes inspired by John Howard's visits to prisoners and plague victims is evidence of Romney's concern for the unfortunate, although this did not extend to his wife and family, whom he had abandoned when he moved to London, only visiting them twice in the next 40 years.

Towards the end of his life he became once more involved in one of Boydell's projects, the Milton Gallery, for which he produced one of his most ambitious drawings, *The Fall of the Rebel Angels*; a striking *Head of Satan* also relates to this composition and according to Mrs Jaffé may derive from the features of Romney's close friend William Hayley, who wrote a biography of the artist, although his most successful work was a didactic poem entitled *The Triumphs of Virtue* to which a good example Lady Hamilton attributed her own personal triumph in marrying Sir William.

Jeffery Daniels

## Peter Gill's corner store

When Peter Gill's new production of *The Changeling* opens tonight at Hammersmith's Riverside Studios it will be the second time within less than a year that he has stolen a march on one of the major subsidised companies. Last January his highly acclaimed production at Riverside of *The Cherry Orchard* set a standard of thoughtful excellence which Peter Hall's National company was hard pressed to live up to a month or two later, and now this revival of *The Changeling* (the first in London since 1961) comes just two months before the same play enters the RSC repertoire at the Aldwych.

"In each case, though," Gill is quick to remark, "we'd announced our plans first, and it was only some weeks later that they were announced. Mind you, it's not altogether surprising if you get a major play like *The Changeling*, which hasn't been done for a considerable time in London, then it is bound to attract more than one producer. Originally this autumn I was in fact going to do *Measure for Measure*, only I changed my mind when I discovered the RSC already had it on the stocks."

Though Gill himself, who is unassuming to the point of secrecy, would be the last to admit it, there must be a quiet satisfaction in laying a trail at Hammersmith for the major companies elsewhere to follow. He sees his work at Riverside as a 'third alternative' to the balance of power held by the National and the RSC. "I've fought against the big companies, though lately I've been rather too busy here to see much of their work; but I can't help feeling that they're the supermarkets and we're the corner store and that therefore there are things we can do and they can't."

Peter Gill is not yet 39, but in the decade since he gave up acting and stage-managing around the regional reps and moved to the Royal Court, his reputation has risen perhaps higher than any other in his immediate generation. His productions of the D. H. Lawrence trilogy and his own play *Small Change* came towards the end of his decade, and he was director in Sloane Square, and for the last two years his time has been totally taken up in first converting and then opening the old BBC television studios at Hammersmith as an arts centre.

"I happen to live near here and because of that they asked me to be on a sort of advisory panel when this whole thing started and it has sort of grown from that."

"It is a complex currently housing not only *The Changeling* but also a cinema, an art gallery, a Japanese photographic exhibit and an area which has recently been used for dance classes. At the end of its first year, Gill reckons that Riverside's main achievement has been survival.

"There's still a certain amount of confusion about what's going on here. I happen to be a theatre director, but this is not actually a theatre, at least not in the repertoire sense. Our budget only allows us to mount four homegrown productions a year" (this year has so far seen *The Cherry Orchard* and *Widows*, Wright's *Tree Tops* and although the success of *The Cherry Orchard* was very gratifying it also did us a certain amount of harm—some of the local people thought we were just another highbrow theatre group).

I've always believed that you work from the author rather than from any particular star, and I've often run workshops for young actors only then to find that none of them



words like 'complexes' and 'centres', but I can't think of one which can adequately describe all that's going on here now. The plays are a part of it, and they are there because you must do creative work within a building if it is to stay alive—you can't just provide a space for other people to bring things into.

"We're building up special relationships with artists, particularly out-of-London artists who like to exhibit here, and also with dance companies and experimental opera groups, which means that sometimes it's possible to find an opera or a ballet here for £1 a ticket. We've done Handel, Haydn, Mozart here for people who simply can't afford West End prices, and even compared to the pop concerts round the corner at the Hammersmith Odeon I think we're a bargain. "Hammersmith is a funny place, you know: by London standards it's a small borough yet there are still as many people living here as in Leicester. There's no easy description: Hammersmith doesn't fit any easy image of London as a series of pretty villages. It's more like real life. Yet a lot of artists live around here: we back on to a housing estate on the site of William Morris's old home and with the old King's and the Lyric there was a rich tradition of theatre which works in our favour."

Gill claims to have no flair at all for administration, though he is prepared to admit that phrases like "public accountability" and "labour-intensive industries" have acquired a certain meaning of late. Riverside exists on a collection of grants from Hammersmith and the GLC and even the government's job creation scheme, but Gill thinks there's a limit to how much longer he can go on asking actors to play there for £40 a week. The "Beatrice" of *The Changeling*, Emma Piper, and the two designers, Liz De Costa and Mary Lawton are all doing their first major work in this production.

I've always believed that you work from the author rather than from any particular star, and I've often run workshops for young actors only then to find that none of them

suited the author of whatever play I happened to be doing next. But you build up a lot of contacts that way, though it's amazing how many actors now in their thirties, often the very best of their age-group, have never handled verse. That was why I did *The Duchess of Malfi* at the Court, to get them used to the verse, though we got thoroughly punished for it by the critics.

"But I'm not really interested in great directorial theories: I want to bring out the meaning of plays as best I can, in the interest first of the author and then of the actors. Ideally of course I'd like to commission some new work for Riverside, but there's again money is in our way at present."

"Ever since I first came to London sixteen years ago I've always lived here in Hammersmith, and when I first felt the excitement of this space we've got here I knew that I wanted to give up being a juggling director and see what could be done with it. But it's a bit like living in Byzantium: whenever we try to convert more of the old studio space into rehearsal rooms or dance classrooms we run up against unbelievably complex building laws. Still, we've managed children's workshops, all kinds of classes and even a jumble sale or two, so we're not doing badly."

"But you still can't talk about any kind of art here seriously without being accused of being highbrow: we're still required to explain the presence of a Chekhov or a Stockhausen, and it's almost as though all the great nineteenth-century liberal pioneers had never lived. To get round that, to create a friendly open space which is not off-putting or elitist, that's the challenge and you can't simply meet it by having a constant knees-up. If you try to please everybody you end up pleasing nobody: so we've taken a distinct line, a bias towards theatre, and the hope is that playwrights who come here for one production may book for a concert or buy a painting, or just have a good evening out and want to come back for another."

Sheridan Morley

## Dernes/Krenn

## Wigmore Hall

## Noel Goodwin

A new season of Wigmore Hall concerts began with the first in a series announced at "Voices of Our Time". The voices concerned were those of two visitors from Vienna, the soprano Helga Dernes and her husband, the tenor Walter Krenn, who sang Heidegger solos and duets and combined in the second of Brit-

ten's canaries, *Abraham and Isaac*. This brought some of the most sensitive vocal character in the programme, perhaps because singing in English required closer attention to the musical purposes.

His heavily phrased playing did little to enhance Schumann's German *Tragödie*, Op. 64, No. 3, a setting of Heine's three-part poem in which the singers first alternate and then combine, almost as if recalling a folk tale: the central section was sung with appealing sentiment by the soprano. Miss Dernes occasionally had difficulty in confining her opulent and often radiant tone to the scale of a small hall, but in songs by

Hugo Wolf from the *Italian Song Book* and the *Spanish Song Book* she combined warmth of heart with eloquent phrasing.

Mr Krenn's choice of Schubert for his solo contribution found him less than persuasive about *Trist im Lied*, or the troubled heart-searching of *Am See*, but his admiration for Daphne in *An eine Quelle* carried conviction, as even more did the quiet intensity of his apostrophe to *Die Götter Griechenlands*. In the duets with his wife his voice sometimes seemed to be shadowing hers more than blending with it, especially in Schubert's *Licht und Liebe* at the start of the programme.

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On the eve of the Camp David talks, a look at the role of the superpowers

# Palestine: why is a compromise impossible?



Begin, Carter and Sadat: what chance peace in the Middle East?

Attempts to end the war between Israel and the Arab countries have usually been made on the basis that this is a war between nation-states, like the wars of Europe in the two previous centuries. It is, of course, a war between nation-states: but it is also more and less—a conflict-by-proxy of the superpowers, and a civil war over a single territory.

If it had been simply a war between nation-states it would have come to an end by now, through one side winning. What has prevented either from winning the war has been that the United States and the Soviet Union have given both camps ample weapons of defence—while specifically preventing them from invading the strategic "heartland" of the other. It is this combination of policies which has made the local parties undefeated and produced the present strategic stalemate.

Yet in spite of this deep involvement by the superpowers, neither has made a full-scale military alliance with any Middle Eastern protégé. They have, evidently, not wanted to be directly committed in a situation where a sudden flare-up might throw them into confrontation with each other.

These semi-alliances have had several positive effects. Both the Israelis and the Arabs have been strongly protected: and, because neither was free to attack the other decisively, the war has remained strictly limited.

However, the stalemate has also had negative effects. It has created diplomatic paralysis: indeed, it has made a normal peace conference impossible. A peace conference

has always been a meeting where the winning side invites the losers to discuss a settlement on the winner's terms. All the Sadat-Begin talks have done is to underline the fundamental difference between a peace conference and talks between undefeated adversaries.

What really needs explaining is why a compromise of some sort—which the military stalemate seems to make inevitable—has so far proved altogether unobtainable.

There appear to be two basic reasons, both related to the nature of the war. First, the strategic principles: the superpowers, having chosen to remain controllers of arms supplies only, have never themselves negotiated over a Middle East settlement. The United States has not wished to admit the important balancing role, actual and potential, that the Soviet Union has played. Consequently, they have never formally admitted their own role or claimed their right to take a direct part in the peace-making.

The American advisory role may produce some results; but it cannot ever achieve a stable peace, such as exists in Europe. That must require the agreement of both strategic principals. Without that, the viability of Middle East politics would be likely soon to disturb international stability: in the present situation, for instance, a political coup in Egypt could bring the Russians back to Cairo almost overnight. To accept these realities would, of course, mean of itself produce peace, but it could, at least, lead to negotiations between those powers able to deliver the conditions of a peace.

The other essential consideration is the war's origin: it began as a civil war over Palestine and this remains its central significance to the Arabs. Now, civil wars are different in character from wars between states: they have been compared to a quarrel between two men wanting the same chair. They are notoriously difficult to end by compromise. But when civil wars do end in a partition of territory, this is never likely to create a defensible frontier being a partition between two parts of a single territory.

For many years the Arab countries demanded a reunited Palestine, with the Jews returned to being a minority community, the destruction of the Jewish state. Now, some are willing to compromise to the extent of recognizing the legitimacy of the Jewish state within its 1957 borders, that is, a sharing of the chair. But this compromise is now unacceptable to the Israelis—unless they can retain, at least for some years, military control of the whole of former Palestine.

This Israeli demand for control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is far from frivolous. But the Arab governments, impressed by Israeli fighting capacity, do not accept that Israel really needs to control these small territories for its security.

There are deeply serious reasons of survival—why, if left to themselves, the Israelis and Arabs are simply not going to be able to reach a compromise over Palestine. But the continuance of this impasse will not mean institutionalizing the stalemate. It will mean the steady erosion of stability in the Arab states. That, in turn, could produce a more catastrophic war, with obvious implications for the rest of the world.

So what is to be done? For the past two decades, Western hopes have been in gradualism, the step-by-step approach. First, a settlement with Egypt, then one with Syria, leaving the Palestinians to the last. The solid success of this long effort has been the establishment of a new kind of buffer zone in Sinai. It consists, briefly, of a demilitarized area, with supervisory United Nations units (including American and Soviet officers) and a new-style American civilian monitoring unit and representatives of the Israeli and Egyptian armies as spectators—the whole constituting, not an active defence force, but an early-warning system. And there is a simpler version of this on the Golan Heights.

Although this ingenious buffer-warning system, if developed, would provide a hopeful way of stabilizing peace on Israel's 1967 frontiers with Egypt and Syria (despite the latter's greater difficulties), very little progress has been made. And the basic reason has been that an early warning system offers precisely nothing to the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian frontier problem. No progress is in sight there and the Egyptian and Syrian governments know they would be treated as mercenaries if they made a step-by-step peace for themselves and left the Palestinians still under Israeli military occupation, even for a five-year period.

It has often been asked: might not Israel feel less anxious about an Arab-governed West Bank and Gaza Strip if the United States offered Israel a bilateral "security guarantee" of its 1967 frontiers? Or, supposing Washington went further and made a full alliance, guaranteeing Israel in the same way that West Germany and divided Berlin are guaranteed? Apart from much Israeli reluctance to be put in that situation (which many Israelis think less favourable than their present one), it would have little attraction to the United States Congress. The Americans would be accepting unlimited risks in a situation they could not control. An alliance with Israel might, also, alienate the United States against its oil-suppliers. And these negative considerations would apply equally to NATO making such an alliance.

Is, then, the Israeli-Palestinian problem a challenge of such importance to world peace that it might compel the

United Nations to make an evolutionary step forward? Could the organization develop a capacity for active peace-keeping here in the near future? The difficulties would be immense. First, the United Nations is today able to provide only early-warning systems or a symbolic presence. It cannot, as yet, act like a government, or like an alliance of governments. It cannot undertake sustained military or administrative action—such as would be involved in repelling raids or in keeping an area obligatorily demilitarized. And these are the least requirements of an Israeli-Palestinian frontier guarantee. Second, the Israelis have reason to think that a majority in the United Nations is ill-disposed towards them. These objections would not be easily overcome.

We, therefore, conclude that a peace settlement between Israel and the former Palestinian territories—the hardest, but most important part of a general Arab-Israeli treaty—may require an act of improvisation that would take account of the fundamental realities of the situation.

Whereas Berlin could be divided between the superpowers, the security of Israel and of a Palestinian entity is a responsibility they are obliged to share. If they divide it, the Americans will divide themselves off from the Arabs; and if the Soviet Union were somehow excluded, it would simply be made the refuge for the discontented and would always be able to destabilize the settlement.

So the practical question is: could a shared superpower responsibility for the security of an Israeli-Palestinian border be made as normal and as durable as an arrangement as is divided Berlin and, if so, how? The outlines of a possible arrangement might be these. First, it is essential that the superpowers should be fully and visibly identified with the settlement, as nobody likes to attack his ultimate protector. That could be achieved by both of them providing civilian monitoring teams for the Israeli-Palestinian border, similar to the American team in Sinai. But there should be no necessity for the Americans and Soviet Union to provide military units for guarding this border.

The function of guarding the border could be carried out by troops of the non-Middle Eastern states which were acceptable to all the local states concerned. Such a force could be based on Cyprus.

This border guard would act, not under the United Nations,

but under the mandate of the treaty signatories, including the superpowers. This would be necessary to allow it the required freedom of action: for the force would have to be as effective as the present Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in seeing that these areas remained largely demilitarized (while acting in the closest possible cooperation with their new Arab local authority). The force would also have to be able to defend the Palestinian entity from possible Israeli interventions and to ensure to the Palestinians full domestic self-determination—which they are bound to demand as the price of accepting international control of demilitarization.

The other essential role of the superpowers would be to set up a joint committee to reduce, over a period, the arms-level in the area. This is an exercise that only the superpowers could attempt.

There would be many obvious difficulties. For instance, the relations of an international force to the government of the day would be delicate; moreover, such a force would certainly not be welcome to all Israelis.

Furthermore, this may not be Israel's only border problem. Palestinians living beyond it and with no possibility of a natural geographic buffer-area between them. Another may be with that part of south Lebanon that is inhabited largely by Palestinians.

The Lebanese and Syrian governments might, ultimately, consider that this small area of displaced Palestinians had best, also, come under the same international control as the West Bank; making it a third case of a possible New Palestine.

It would, of course, be unwise to minimize the dangers that may arise from Israeli-Palestinian relations, even with all the precautions outlined above. The difficulty for the superpowers of controlling relations between Israel and its neighbours may be a major one for years to come: but it is, surely, infinitely less than the difficulties that would be created if this situation got out of control, as it nearly did in 1973.

David Astor

*Peace in the Middle East: Super Powers and Security Guarantees*, by David Astor and Valerie Yorke. A Corgi Special, to be published this week, price £1.95.

Geoffrey Smith

## The growing band of rebel MPs

It is often assumed that the increasing number of Government defeats in the House of Commons over the past two years is to be attributed simply to there being a hung Parliament, and that if the coming election produces a clear majority for one party or the other then British politics will return to its accustomed path. But will that really be so?

There is no denying the force of parliamentary arithmetic: as a minority administration for more than two years the present Government has not been able to get its policies through the House of Commons when all the other parties have united against it.

That explains some of the defeats, but not a good many of the most important ones. They have come about because Labour backbenchers have taken the opportunity for effective rebellion by uniting with the Opposition to defeat their own Government.

This is not a tendency which has been confined to right or left of the party; nor to one or two spectacular rebels like the late Mr John Mackintosh, Mr Brian Walden, while he was still an MP, or Mr George Cunningham. In other words, there has been a more general trend towards greater assertion or indiscipline, whichever way one cares to look at it, on the backbenches.

What are the reasons for this? Will it last under a majority government of either party? More especially, would it apply with a Conservative government? In a book, *The British MP*, whose publication was reported in *The Times* by Ian Bradley last week, Mr Colin Mellors, a lecturer in politics at Bradford University, emphasized the increasing professionalization of parliamentarians, especially in the Labour Party. "The move from men of real to men of ideas," Members with a background of manual work have been progressively replaced by people from the professions.

This is more than a change in occupational background, because the principal trade-unions have traditionally not sent their leading figures to the House of Commons. Seats were found for Ernest Bevin and Clement Davies when the prime minister of the day wished to bring them into government; neither had any intention of standing for election before that. As a general rule it was the faithful second-raters who were regarded with a place in Parliament, and they had no desire for office or even to cut a dash at Westminster. It was enough to be a member.

On the Conservative side there has been a swing away from the land towards business and the professions. The knights of the shires—those MPs with comfortable wealth and assured social position who were content with the satisfactions of being the member for a pleasant rural constituency in the best club in Europe—are a dying breed.

So in both parties the change in occupational background has represented a still greater change in political ambition. This increased professionalization has been one of the principal reasons for the drive towards parliamentary reform. Members who enter the House of Commons not simply to be there but to influence events will not be content to be lobby fodder, and the more sophisticated their approach to politics the more they are likely to demand effective committees with adequate support and facilities.

But that does not by itself quite explain why they should be more inclined to rebel. The career politician wants office; office is bestowed by party leaders, usually in the first instance on the recommendation of the Whips; and the Whips are not inclined to smile favourably on those who cause

trouble. The tributes to Mr Mackintosh focused attention on the tragic waste that occurred for precisely that reason. The full explanation for much of the rebellion, I believe, lies just in the ambition of MPs in their frustration as well. The way in which Westminster is suited to a minority of office-seekers, a good many of whom have no wish or expectation of receiving it, and a fluctuating number in between who would quite like to have the experience but do not mind unduly and would have no hopes rising high anyway.

It is the frontbenches who are cast in the starring role for the proceedings on the floor of the House. For it is backbenchers there is the prospect of contributing occasionally at Question Time; speaking in debate from time to time, usually to empty benches, with a scattering of other MPs most of whom are waiting their turn to speak; serving on committees, most of which until very recently have attracted little public attention and exercised little real power to be something of a figure in their constituencies, particularly after they have held their seat for a while; and to rub shoulders in the lobbies with the great.

What is sufficient for a Parliament that is essentially a servitor of talent for making governments, and a general sounding board. It is enough for parliamentarians who have no ambition to run the country. But it is galling for MPs who wish to make a mark of their times. If most MPs come into that category, most of them are by the laws of arithmetic bound to be disappointed. They can obtain satisfaction only through office—or possibly shadow office—and relatively few can be chosen.

Yet more than in most professions the gulf is wide between success and failure, between the frontbencher and the person gazing with thwarted ambition at the back of his neck. For him there is neither the consolation of a decent salary nor a modest share of real power and influence. Small wonder then if he decides to make the party managers take notice of him or watch out.

These factors will not be swept away by a change of government, but the extent to which they affect conduct will vary with circumstances. Rebellion becomes more attractive under a minority government because then the rebels can more easily win and everyone knows that a policy defeat will not bring the administration down. It is encouraged by legislation that divides parties, like the devolution Bills, and that is generally opposed by moderate opinion, like the Dock Work Regulation Bill.

It is likely to occur more frequently if Labour win the election, partly because Labour MPs have got a taste for it and partly because the Tories attach a higher value to cohesion. If Mrs Thatcher enters Downing Street she can expect a clear run from her own party for a while. But if the Tories are in office for any length of time the underlying forces are likely to assert themselves.

An increasing number of MPs are less inclined than in the past to be taken for granted. If there is to be a system of select committees with real powers that should give them the opportunity to exercise a measure of power and influence. If not their frustration is likely to boil over from time to time, which will be tiresome for the Whips but no bad thing for the country. One or another the Whips will force a new type of Parliament.

Henry Stanhope

## Management Game '79



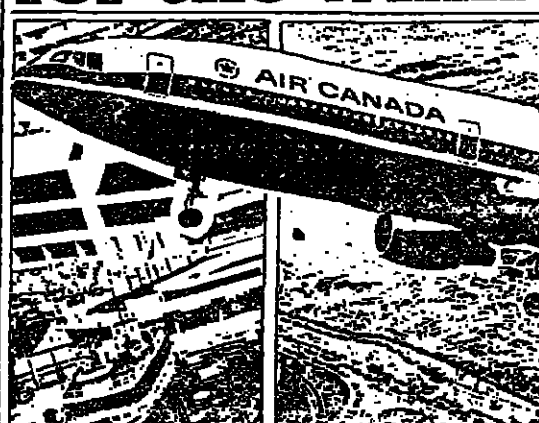
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## The guard is changing for autumn

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace, now that Christopher Robin has gone back with Alice. For guardsmen as for seaside landladies, Lord Bath and Mr Whippy men, the season is in diminution. Few Guardsmen will regret it (I have not asked the others).

It has been a long, wet summer since April 10, when they went into uniform, divesting themselves of their greatcoats to emerge in scarlet and gold. Apart from the usual Queen's Birthday Parade, Garter service, Beating Retreat et al, there has been one state visit by the President of Romania and presentation of new Colours for the Grenadiers and Irish (Guards) Colours are paraded so often that they wear out every 12 to 15 years. All these have entailed rehearsals, sometimes at dawn.

Last Friday they started changing the guard every other day, which is an annual duty appointment to the British Travel Authority, and the chances of seeing the Guards themselves will soon be reduced. Staff officers at the Army's London District Headquarters, in Horse Guards, try to ensure that five or the eight Foot Guards battalions are stationed in an around London during the summer, which means that these have to squeeze most of their training and work into the rest of the year.

The number already down to four (the 1st Battalion, Scots

Guards, has just left for Northern Ireland) and it will reduce to two later. Gunners from 16 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, arrive to stand in in September, to be followed by the Colour Squadron, RAF, in October, and No 41 Commando, Royal Marines, in November. Even the Mounted Regiment of the Household Cavalry rides out in two weeks for its annual military exercise on Pibroch, while the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, takes over at Horse Guards for a month.

All the Queen's Men relish the change, not just because it is a change but because they labour under an awful fear that they will turn into toy soldiers if exposed for too long to the gaze of the public.

A soldier's life is terribly hard, said Alice.

## Showing the flag

I live within sight of the flagstaff at Kew Gardens. As the flagstaff is 225ft high this is not itself remarkable. But the comings and goings of its flag are a fruitful source of breakfast conversation and a useful indicator on the health of our world. Notably, it clung limply at half-mast for the late Pope, rose for the birthday of Princess Margaret on August 21, and descended again on the death of Jomo Kenyatta last Wednesday.

Buckingham Palace tells me that flags are flown on public buildings 16 times a year: on the Queen's birthdays (actual and official), the anniversaries of her accession, her coronation

and her wedding day; on Remembrance Day and the days of our patron saints (but only in the countries where they count), and on the birthdays of the Queen's immediate family. The late Duke of Gloucester enjoyed the privilege because he was the son of a monarch. The present Duke does not.

The Queen also decides whether flags should be flown at half-mast, and the Lord Chamberlain acts on it. It is quite an exercise. His office telephones the Department of the Environment, which telephones its contact men in the main Whitehall departments, who in turn telephone round their empires... until the message reaches someone who has to do something about it. Telegrams are sent to embassies overseas.

I can assure her Majesty that they loyally fulfil her wishes at the Royal Botanic Gardens. They even resisted the temptation recently to fly their flag at half-mast on the death of the biggest and most beautiful of our world remaining fully grown elm, another victim of Dutch elm disease.

## Record for a flier?

Mr John Blake, who as usual is doing the commentary for the flying display at the Farnborough Air Show, is wondering whether by learning to fly at the age of 53 he is creating a record, because he has only one arm.

He lost his right arm when a grenade exploded in his hands while he was serving

Not so sorry: Diddy and I think spelling is all right.



with the Irish Guards in the Second World War. He uses an attachment for his artificial arm when at the controls of a Cessna light aircraft on which he has been learning.

He has already done several hours' solo, although because of his disability he has to have a safety instructor with him in case of emergency. However, he should soon qualify to fly alone. Many Service pilots have flown again after losing limbs. Sir Douglas Bader is the outstanding example. Mr Blake

thinks he may be the first in learn from scratch with that particular handicap.

## Delegates bank on statistics

Those magnificent men in their flying machines at Farnborough should know that several hundred of the world's leading experts will be discussing their health and safety at the International Congress of Aerospace Medicine, which is being held simultaneously in London this week.

The effects of stress and fatigue in pilot error are among the subjects to be examined. One of the doctors' long-term objectives is to develop so much confidence between air crew and themselves that pilots will disclose day-to-day family and business worries which might influence their performance at the controls.

It is comforting to know that most of the aviators due to be at the congress are by air, fortified no doubt by knowledge that it is still much safer to cross the Atlantic than the Great West Road.

Note for General watchers: Britain's next Nato commander will be Lieutenant-General Anthony Furrer-Hockley, in charge of the Army's Southern District at Aldershot, who is due to become commander on the allied northern flank, a tradition British appointment, in 1980 next year.

Henry Stanhope







## Social Focus

Time for another  
look at the Welfare  
State

The concept of the welfare state was the main inspiration for the social legislation of the coalition government during the Second World War and the Labour government which followed it. The tradition was carried on by the Conservative government during the increasing prosperity of the 1950s and with modifications, the idea of the welfare state remains the basis for social welfare provision today.

There can be no doubt that the legislation of the 1940s brought about an amelioration of the hardships suffered, particularly by the elderly, the disabled and those children whose parents could not provide for them.

Nevertheless, there is now strident criticism of social legislation, particularly that schemes for meeting individual needs are undermining people's will to provide for themselves to an extent that threatens the pro-

ductive capacity on which the prosperity of the country depends.

There is also widespread concern about the apparently inexorable increase in the number and costs of administrative staff associated with social welfare. Many of the original schemes were subsequently thought to have shortcomings which were remedied by amending legislation and more and more amendments have been added on, with the result that almost all areas of social welfare are so complex that they require an army of administrative staff to keep the machine moving and to interpret the regulations.

It seems appropriate to re-state the basic principles of social welfare and then use that statement of principle to analyze current welfare provision.

I suggest that there are three basic principles which should underlie all social legislation.

1.—There is an intrinsic unity in society and the welfare of all its members is inter-dependent. This means, on the one hand, that society cannot afford to neglect the well-being of any of its members, but equally, that any proposal to benefit a section of society should only be approved if it is not against the interests of society as a whole.

2.—The most important institution in society is the family. Why this should be so is ultimately a mystery, although some of the contributions which family life makes to the health of society, such as the development of children, are appreciated. Nevertheless, there is quite sufficient pragmatic evidence both from history and contemporary observation on the inter-dependence of the health of the family and society to allow it to be included as a basic principle.

3.—The real test of any scheme of social welfare is that

it should involve no more than a minimum of government activity. Again, there is historical evidence to show that a philosophy of laissez faire or no government involvement leads to the oppression of the weaker element in society by the strong.

This is not in the British tradition which is to use government to maintain a balance in society in accordance with the first principle. However, we are now seeing the even greater dangers of allowing government to take on the role of an all-providing state with claims to regulate every aspect of the life of society.

If a government is given too much power it will inevitably fall under the control of the most powerful groups in society and be used as an instrument of oppression and divisiveness. However, one of the other consequences will be to undermine the will and the ability of the family to provide for its own members. This will entail the government pre-empting more and more resources for meeting needs which, to a large extent it is creating, but which will increase at a rate which it cannot satisfy.

The end result must be a cumbersome and complex machinery of government which must collapse under this growing disparity between assessed needs and resources and it is that sequence, in which we seem to be caught, and which must be reversed.

Before discussing how the application of these principles might be used to reform contemporary social welfare schemes, it is necessary to state the limitations of welfare, which should be used to correct anomalies in society rather than acting as its main pillars.

One of the major problems facing society today is mass unemployment. Reliance on ever more extensive social security payments will only bring economic collapse, apart from demoralizing the large numbers of people condemned to long-term unemployment and pre-empting resources which are needed elsewhere. The irony is that the social security taxes which are levied to fund social security benefits are one of the principal disincentives to creating more jobs.

Similarly, while the intention of the employment protection legislation was to prevent arbitrary dismissal, one of its unintended consequences is progressively to dissuade employers from offering jobs, for fear of being saddled with heavy liabilities.

For people to rely on social security payments as an alternative can only bring the whole social security system into disrepute.

A problem of even longer standing is the housing shortage. Here again the conventional wisdom is to invest larger and larger sums of public money in local authority housing. However, the true position is that there is a surplus of accommodation in Britain. The problem arises because the public authorities, central government, the local authorities, the health authorities and the water boards all persist in keeping thousands and thousands of perfectly serviceable houses empty.

The reasons are multifarious and some are valid in that they may be needed for example for imminent road-improvement schemes, but all too often they are left empty for no better reason than that it would be inconvenient to the administering authority to take steps to make them available.

Before investing any further money, there is an obvious task for the government to ensure that full use is being made of the available resources and this will also mean ensuring that a proper balance is held between the legitimate interests of landlord and tenant, so that the present imbalance is corrected whereby many landlords feel so restricted that the amount of accommodation for rent is rapidly declining which is hardly in the interests of the tenants.

There are essentially only two groups of people for whom social welfare provision is needed: the incapacitated and those children whose families cannot care for them.

One of the points about this classification is the omission of some groups who are usually included in reviews of recipients of social welfare benefits. No separate mention is made of the elderly, which accords with the fact that over 90 per cent of all elderly people remain in their own homes for the whole of their lives. Their retirement income is deferred savings and they make no greater demand than marginally extra need for the services of their GP.

Those elderly people who do need help are, in fact, disabled and need services in the same way as other sick and disabled people.

The importance of this distinction is that it enables us to appreciate that there is not some large and growing section of the population who are nothing but a burden. The principal source of help for elderly disabled people are other elderly people, who have the interest and the necessary time to devote.

The development of self-care schemes among elderly people is one of the most effective ways of preventing the deterioration of newly-retired people by showing them how much they are needed and have to contribute.

The main impression which one has now, is that whatever improvements are made in benefits for the disabled, this only results in demands for more. This is an inevitable consequence of the paternalism of the welfare state and must result in an eventual charge of ingratitude, which would herald a reduction in the resources made available for their welfare.

The alternative and preferable strategy would be to involve the disabled people much more in discussions about their role in society. There is no evidence that they cannot appreciate economic reality. On the contrary the indications are that independence and preventive measures instead of institutional care, a strategy devised by disabled people could cost considerably less than present levels of expenditure and enable them to make a much fuller contribution to society.

At the very least by involving disabled people in a statement of priorities one would ensure that there was agreement about how the available resources were deployed.

The other major factor which must be stressed even in an outline statement is the importance and economic sense of concentrating on preventive measures to save the need for infinitely more expensive crisis remedies. To explore this fully would reveal some very exciting projects, which might very well strike responsive chords from disabled and chronically sick people, themselves and their friends.

It is not difficult to show that providing relatively inexpensive domiciliary and day care services such as home help, luncheon clubs and social gatherings, substantially reduces the need for scarce and expensive residential facilities either in old people's homes or geriatric wards in hospital and if purpose-built housing is provided for disabled elderly people they can actually make a contribution to the housing stock by vacating their under-occupied family houses.

The indifference of the public authorities to the welfare of children who cannot be cared for by their families is in marked contrast to French government attitudes, where sizeable child allowances have been a major plan in public policy for over a century.

Family allowances were only introduced in Britain after the Second World War and their value has been steadily eroded until the most recent Budget, with its proposal for substantial child benefits.

The irrefutable evidence is that if a child does not have a substantial experience of family life in its early years, its chances of being able to support its own children, without welfare assistance are considerably reduced. The logic is obvious. Resources need to be concentrated on child benefits, support services such as play-groups, nursery education and family counselling services, and in cases where the natural family cannot provide adequately, even with support, a national strategy for substitute family care for young children needs to be developed with minimum foster-parent allowances and support for adoption.

For older children there is a need for well-run children's homes and schemes of intermediate treatment to combat delinquency. In economic terms, the cost of supporting an individual in institutional care for life, which can be the consequence of mishandling a problem in childhood, can become astronomical, even leaving out the loss of productive capacity.

If one then adds in the cost of supporting any children he may have and the costs which they may throw up as a result of their parents incapacity, then there is an overwhelming incentive to invest in preventive measures.

None of this should be interpreted as a "soft" approach to lawlessness or as an argument against appropriate punishment, although the interrelationship needs to be carefully worked out. Similarly it would be a mistake to assume that preventive social welfare could be thought to compensate for bad planning, inadequate housing or poverty.

These evils have to be tackled on their own level and it is only the casualties of a just system who can be helped by preventive and remedial measures.

Bob Bessell

The author is Director of Social Services for Warwickshire. The article represents his own personal views.



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# DENTAL HYGIENE

More practices embrace doctrine that prevention is better than repair

by David Smith

The dental profession in Britain is passing through an unsettled period. There are two main reasons for this, each of which is greatly affected by the other. The first is the increasing uncertainty about the future of dentistry within the National Health Service, and the second is the increasing awareness that dental practice should be more oriented towards the prevention of disease rather than being organized to repair the damage that it causes.

When the National Health Service started 30 years ago, dentistry was seen as an integral part of a free and comprehensive service. Before this there were two types of dentistry available. Those who could afford it went regularly to their dentist, who used to examine the teeth and do any necessary fillings (and for many people this visit to the den-

tist at the end of the school holidays is still an unforgettable memory). Alongside this there was "blood and vulcanite" dentistry. The less well off waited until they had toothache before going to the dentist to have the tooth out. This process went on until just a few teeth were left, and then one fateful day all the remaining teeth were extracted and a set of vulcanite (rubber, suitably coloured, and hardened by a heat process) dentures was made.

The inevitability of this process was recognized, and in many industrial towns in the North people often made the pragmatic decision not to put off the evil day, and so the extracting of all teeth and the fitting of dentures became a recognized twenty-first birthday or wedding present.

Ten years ago a study was conducted of people's attitudes towards dentistry and how dental practice differed

in the two towns of Darlington and Salisbury, and this provided evidence that regional differences still exist between the North and the South of England. But if one looks at the country as a whole there is little doubt that against such a background the dental branch of the National Health Service has been a great success.

Treatment was available to all from the dentist in general dental practice or in the case of children and expectant and nursing mothers, from the local authority dental service as well. The pattern of dental care which previously had been available only for the fairly well to do was now there for all who wished to avail themselves of it.

The figures speak for themselves: in 1950 a total of 7,605,000 courses of treatment was provided by general dental practitioners, while by 1976 this figure had grown to 25,054,000. How-

ever, snags began to emerge. The whole thing cost considerably more than for dentistry to restrict what has been originally available on the Health Service—are together resulting in an increase in the amount of private practice, especially in the South-east of England.

During the past 30 years, however, the pattern of dentistry has not stayed still. Many dentists are convinced that it is both possible and practical to run dental practices which are oriented towards the prevention rather than the repair of dental disease. The mechanisms which predispose towards dental decay and gum disease are now better understood than they were a generation ago.

Bacteria become enmeshed in the mucous film (dental plaque) which forms on the surface of the teeth. These bacteria are able to form acids when they come into contact with sugar in the diet. This acid then attacks the tooth, initiating the decay process.

After a while, this plaque takes up salts from the saliva and becomes calcified, especially at the necks of the teeth. This sets up local irritation which, if untreated, leads to gum disease which can actually lead to the loss of the teeth. Preventive dentistry tries to interfere with three aspects of this process. Instruction in proper toothbrushing methods and regular removal of the calculus by the dentist or the dental hygienist reduce the number of harmful bacteria in the mouth.

Dietary advice goes into the question of modifying individual patients' diets in order to reduce the total amount of sugar that is eaten and also of avoiding eating sugary foods between meals to restrict the time that it is available in the

mouth for decomposition into acid. Finally, fluoride strengthens the teeth and makes them more resistant to acid attack. In most parts of Britain, some fluoride occurs naturally in the drinking water, but usually at levels below the optimum for giving maximum protection to the teeth. In those districts where the level is low, fluoride can be added to achieve the desired level. When this is not done, teeth can be protected (albeit not so effectively) by the topical application of fluoride (sometimes loosely described as painting the teeth) or even supervised mouth rinsing.

The opposition to the fluoridation of public water supplies is vociferous and sustained, but both its safety and its efficacy in reducing dental decay has been attested time and time again. One of the more recent favourable reports produced in Britain was that of the Royal College of Physicians.

The skills needed to practise restorative dentistry are different from those needed for a successful preventive practice. The man or woman who is a good restorative dentist needs to be a craftsman of an exceedingly high standard, while the skills needed to persuade people to change their attitudes and habits are equally demanding but, perhaps not surprisingly, these differing attributes are not necessarily found in the same person. Unfortunately, the Government has not yet found a way to recompense the practitioner for giving dietary advice (time-consuming if it is to be effective) or for measures such as applying fluoride to the teeth.

It is idle to pretend that preventive dentistry is going to eradicate dental disease overnight. Many people will

have neither the interest nor the motivation, and so there will undoubtedly still be far too many people who need all their teeth extracted and dentures fitted, while they are still young adults. It has to be remembered that even today more than half the population of the United Kingdom over the age of 30 have lost all their teeth.

There can be little doubt that as the past 30 years have seen the change from an extraction-oriented profession to a restorative one, so the next 30 years will see a similar change from a pattern of

restorative dentistry to that of preventive dentistry.

It needs, however, more than a change of emphasis on how a dentist chooses to run his practice, for any prevention programme has to be an essential part of a more general approach to persuading people to keep themselves fit and healthy. Certainly there is need for a greater awareness of the importance of dental health among such influential groups as health visitors and health educators.

Dental health education is all too often neglected in schools—in fact, many schools seem positively to

discourage it, if the shelves of school tuck shops are anything to go by. Unless the Government is prepared to make some changes to allow preventive dentistry to become an essential part of the general dental services, then it looks as though once again there will be two different types of dentistry available in Britain, a repair service within the National Health Service, and a preventive service for those who can afford to pay for it privately.

The author is reader in dental radiology, King's College Hospital Dental School.

Winning poster in the under-eight section of the competition run as part of this year's national dental health action campaign. The artist, Stephen Nash, aged five, of Ely, Cambridgeshire, won £500 worth of gymnasium equipment for his school, St Audrey's County Infants. Dental practitioners participating in the campaign, which is sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive, are attending lectures in London and Manchester this week on preventing dental decay.

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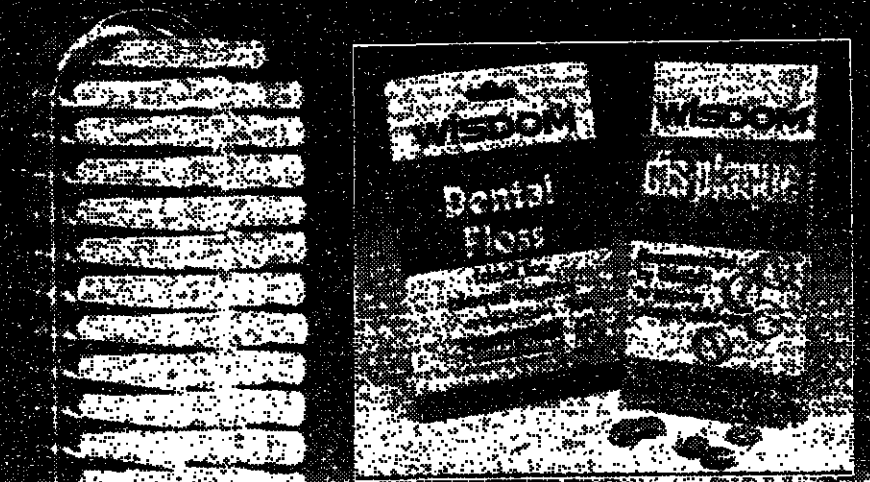
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## Research neglected

by Pearce Wright

Research into tooth decay and other disorders which cause people to lose their teeth has been a traditional poor relation of the biomedical sciences. Although more than half the population have lost their teeth by the age of 35, and almost every member of the population has to be treated for caries or periodontal diseases (disorders of the tissues that support the teeth) at some stage, the subject has been given no priority in national research programmes.

The simple reason is that people do not die from holes in their teeth. Yet the social and economic impact of dental illness on the National Health Service and on loss of working time is clearly substantial. Since there has been no advance in dental care which promises large cuts in the costs to the NHS, there seems a good case for research into better preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic practice in dentistry.

The idea is not a new one. A similar argument was made in a memorandum for the fact that attack is not indiscriminate but occurs at certain localized sites on the tooth surface (caries) or on the gingiva (periodontal disease). Most investigations of tooth decay rest on the assumption that the disease is provoked by acidogenic bacteria which thrive on fermentable carbohydrates, yielding acid which in turn breaks down enamel.

Other actions have been postulated. But the majority implicate bacteria and sugar in the diet as the joint causative agents. This is confirmed overwhelmingly by research in comparative studies between animals and man. New work is to resolve ambiguities about the organism *streptococcus mutans* in particular, which

is the main villain of the piece.

Between four and seven types of *streptococcus mutans* have been identified as of varying degrees of virulence, hence a proposal for devising an accurate method for identifying different types quickly. Experiments on monkeys at Guy's Hospital Dental School have shown the possibility of immunizing against caries. The proce-

For the purpose of allocating resources the subject was separated by the MRC into dental caries; periodontal disease; other diseases of the mouth, teeth and jaws; measures for prevention and treatment; biological problems related to dentistry; and recruitment, training and career development.

A fuller explanation of the mechanism by which bacteria attack the tooth surface, and if unchecked penetrate the enamel and dentine to destroy the tooth is generally agreed as the first goal of research. Any explanation must account for the fact that attack is not indiscriminate but occurs at certain localized sites on the tooth surface (caries) or on the gingiva (periodontal disease). Most investigations of tooth decay rest on the assumption that the disease is provoked by acidogenic bacteria which thrive on fermentable carbohydrates, yielding acid which in turn breaks down enamel.

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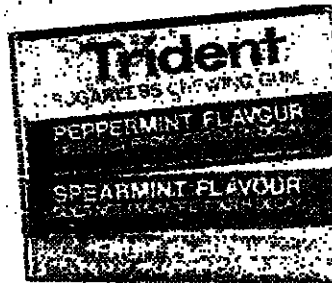
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## Manpower target of 20,000 reached

by Nicholas Timmins

Dental manpower in Britain more or less came of age this year. For it was in 1955 that the McNair committee decided that Britain, eight years into the NHS, needed more dentists. It recommended that dental schools should increase their output until 20,000 dentists were on the register, and that target was reached at the end of last year.

Almost to celebrate the event, dentistry is about to launch its first big inquiry since then into the long-term needs for training and education in dentistry.

And it is significant that the inquiry—to be run by the Nuffield Foundation—is to look at training for dentistry, not training for dental surgery, and cosmetic work than at present, is one possible way for the future.

In fact dentistry to date has been lucky. Unlike medicine, whether by good luck or good judgement, the McNair target for dentists has proved fairly acceptable.

Dentistry—partly because it comes second to medicine in the health department's list of priorities—has been left alone. Although the target has been reached rather earlier than expected, the British Dental Association believes that for the rest of

this century a surplus of dentists is unlikely, and that there is little good reason for altering dental student intake.

Dental school intake—which is about 950 a year in the 17 dental schools in the United Kingdom—will lead to about 27,000 dentists under 65 on the register by the year 2000, and 30,000 by 2010.

That at least would increase the ratio of dentists to population from 3,991 to one now to about 2,000 to one—a figure still double that already achieved in Scandinavia.

There are big differences in the availability of dental treatment around the country. In Kensington and Chelsea there is one dentist to each 1,118 of population. In Sunderland there is one to every 7,213. In other words, general dental services are roughly seven times more available in Kensington and Chelsea than in Sunderland.

But the problem is not as bad as it has been. For while the most recent statistics show that a few areas in fact have fewer dentists to population in 1977 than they had in 1974, the latest study from the British Dental Association shows that dentists "are tending increasingly to work in areas most in need of more dentists".

In 1963 the population to dentist ratio was 73 per cent higher outside the South-east than in it, with nearly 6,000 potential patients a dentist in the rest of England.

By 1977, the average population for each dentist outside the South-east was down to fewer than 4,500, the

differential between South-east England and the rest, having fallen to 45 per cent. And in some parts the rate of change is rapid. Wales for example had a population to dentist ratio only 21 per cent worse in 1977 than the average. Just three years before it had been 28 per cent worse.

The reason is not Department of Health policies, much though the department would like to see the distribution of dentists improved. It is quite simply market forces, Mr Ronald Allen, the British Dental Association's secretary, believes. "It is correcting itself on the basis of supply and demand", he says. "When a young chap qualifies he wants to set himself up in practice where he can most quickly recover the capital he has to put into the practice".

capital that can amount to between £8,000 and £20,000, excluding premises.

The Health Department in fact is attempting the experiment of setting up dentists in areas which are scarce in dentists and paying them a salary. But progress has been little and slow.

Even without the department's help, however, present trends suggest that the traditional North-South imbalance of dentists to population could correct itself within 10 to 15 years.

But while the availability of the 13,500 general dental practitioners around the country may be a burning issue to a man with tooth-ache today, the Nuffield inquiry will worry not about today's difficulties, but those of the next 30 years and beyond.

For greater public awareness of the need to look after teeth, the slow spread of fluoridation, and the possibility that a vaccine against dental cavities might be produced, could revolutionize dentistry.

Already few dentists would argue that much of the training a dentist receives in his four or five years at dental school is likely to be the jobbing dentist, filling teeth and extracting them and doing the other bread and butter work of general dentistry.

The amount of new scientific and medical information dental students have to learn has grown sharply. There is a strong case to be argued that the future for the dentist will lie in being a real dental surgeon, concentrating on restorative and cosmetic dentistry, while dental hygienists and dental auxiliaries look after the routine.

Dental hygienists have been in existence since the Second World War. Their numbers are small—1,000 are actually working, about 560 in general practice—their duties limited to scaling and polishing teeth, and offering instruction in dental hygiene. But dentists who have worked with them swear by them, and every one from the Department of Health to the dentists would like to see more.

Dental auxiliaries are a newer breed, about a decade old, and are treated with far more suspicion by the dental profession. They too number only a few hundred and can work only in hospitals or in the community dental service—the old school dental service—

alongside the 900-odd dentists in that department. But their duties, after two years' training, approach more closely those of dentists as they can extract deciduous teeth and undertake simple fillings in children, in addition to the scaling and polishing work and applying protective coatings to teeth.

Should the Nuffield inquiry—due to come out in late 1979 or early 1980—find that dental dentistry is likely to change in its nature, a team approach, with a dental surgeon specializing in many complex restorative work, with much of the routine left to larger bands of hygienists and auxiliaries, perhaps with greater training and more responsibilities, could make good sense.

That too could mean that fewer dentists will be needed than are likely to be trained at present, although shorter working weeks, longer holidays and the earlier retirement that many hope the later years of the century will bring could balance that out.

Hand in hand with developing dental technology must come changes in the training for dental technicians, still largely organized as a cottage industry.

The technicians work in a few large firms, and hundreds of one and two-man businesses which cope well with denture problems and will have a market for years. No development in dentistry is going to write off the older generations' neglect of their teeth.

The author is medical and science correspondent, Press Association.

## One in the teeth for lost work

by Penny Symon

An estimated 12 million working days are lost in British industry each year through people taking time off to visit the dentist.

For this reason, management seeking ways to improve efficiency are increasingly becoming interested in establishing a comprehensive dental treatment service on the premises.

The Association of Industrial Dental Surgeons, a body founded in 1961 and recognized as a leading authority on industrial dental practice, would like to see a faster rate of growth and will advise any company considering the introduction of a dental service. It knows of about 50 which have established a comprehensive one, and an equal number which have set up something on a smaller or part time basis.

But the association says that it would like to see

many more introducing a dental service because of the advantages it provides.

"Pressure for a dental service on the premises is beginning to come from the shopfloor because people can appreciate the benefit of it," Mr James Biggs, the association's secretary, says.

A survey published in *Personnel Management* in 1974 showed that a part-time dental service in one British company was saving about 1,000 working days a year, while in another large British organization employing several dentists about 10,000 working days were being saved over the same period.

Although a firm which does operate a dental service is doing so partly for benevolent reasons, it is certain that its accountants would have taken a hard look at the finances involved before setting it up.

The service is most effective when the dental surgeon is employed by the company

as a salaried employee. In this case, the fees earned by the dental surgeon from the National Health Service are assigned to the company, and the dental surgeon can provide a service tailored to the particular needs of his fellow employees.

Patients are charged the same fees as they would be by a dentist in general practice, and they can also be seen privately.

Many companies find this scheme most satisfactory, and by offering favourable conditions of employment, are able to recruit a dentist of suitably high calibre who is also able to give time to the increasingly important preventive aspect of his work.

"It costs a firm between £12,000 and £16,000 to set up a service, and the facility is likely to be heavily used in a firm employing between 2,000 and 2,500 people," Mr Biggs says. "But firms with only about 250 employees

can still benefit from some form of part-time service."

The advantages of having a service on the premises are enormous. "Employees have to take time off to go to the dentist, and perhaps lose pay. Many have difficulty in getting a suitable appointment with a dentist in general practice, because of the pressure on dentists outside, and sometimes the company dentist can cope more ably with a person who must be seen at short notice," Mr Biggs says.

The essential staff required for a service are a dental surgeon and a surgery assistant. When more than one dentist is working, a secretary/receptionist is usually employed. A dental hygienist, who is qualified to undertake scaling of teeth and other basic preventive treatment, can be employed either full or part-time to enable the dentist to undertake work that only he can do.



Low-seated dentistry at the Dental School, Guy's Hospital, London. With an annual intake of 80 students, Guy's is one of the largest dental schools in the country, providing facilities for the training of dental hygienists, dental surgery assistants, and dental technicians.

## Research neglected

continued from facing page

ive form it involves progressive disruption and irreversible disintegration of tooth-supporting tissues. The old-fashioned term pyorrhea is a good description of the last stages of the disorder, for by the time the teeth are loose the gingival crevice becomes abnormally wide and infected in the way implied in the name.

But more is known about the terminal stage of the condition than its beginnings. Despite current beliefs about the bacterial origins of the disease, clinicians still frequently use surgical methods of treatment.

Originally, this was to remove the seat of infection.

Recently the treatment has been to expose underlying pockets from which the infection may be spreading. Greater awareness of the role of bacteria has led to other methods of treatment.

However, very little comparison has been made of the effectiveness of the two. Indeed the lack of epidemiological studies in dental care emerges clearly from the MRC review as a serious deficiency in all the categories it considered.

Nevertheless there have been some outstanding long-term investigations such as one in which Professor B. C. Leighton, King's College Hospital Dental School, has followed development and growth changes from birth to adulthood.

The main object is to decide the best period of development, at which children in need of orthodontic treatment should receive it. This study, which includes a series of individuals examined over 25 years, indicates the genetic influences as well as the environmental factors at work in formative stages of growth.

The study of genetics is as important to the understanding of variability and susceptibility to disease in dental care as it is in other branches of medicine.

Some of the more obvious things such as tooth size and hereditary structure have been examined, but the scale and depth of the studies have been limited.

Yet genetics is a good example of a biological discipline that could bring important advances for the dentist. At a basic level it could establish the factors underlying the control of tooth size. Studies of hereditary influences on the susceptibility to caries and to periodontal disease would have more direct clinical advantages.

In the opinion of the MRC dental committee, some of the deep-seated problems which hold back dental research would be alleviated by a suitable career structure.

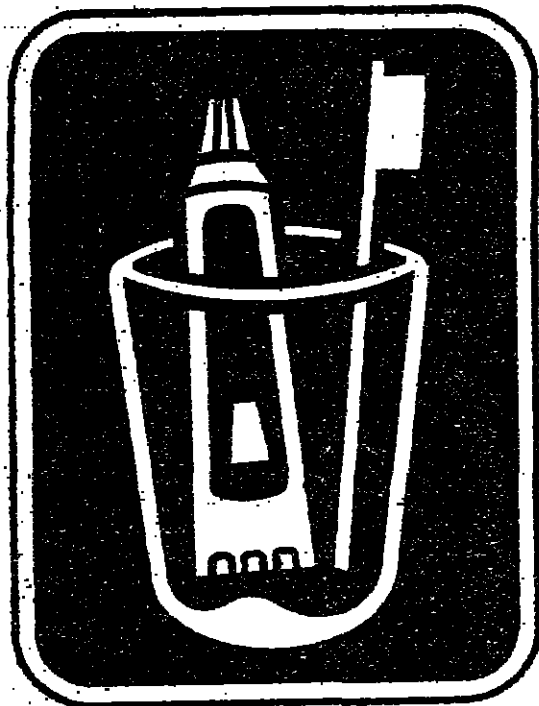
The volume of dental research has grown slowly with the expansion of dental schools over the past few years.

Nevertheless, several factors have combined to minimize the level of research. They include the clinical teaching load on the dental academic and the predominance of short-term funding.

Dental teachers spend an average of 19 hours in clinical undergraduate teaching and eight and a half hours in personal research, compared with seven and a half hours teaching a week for clinical medical teachers and 13 hours a week personal research.

A consequence is that the dental student receives little exposure to advanced research during his studies.

The author is Science Editor, The Times.



# National Dental Health Action Campaign

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The National Dental Health Action Campaign Week starts September 4th—and lasts till September 8th. Its purpose is to educate, inform and encourage preventive dentistry. For, with a little care, your teeth can—and should—last a lifetime. And it's as simple as brushing your teeth, twice a day, for about two minutes with a fluoride toothpaste, coupled with regular visits to your dentist. Worth it isn't it?

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## Oil platform simulator contract for Redifon

By Kenneth Owen  
Redifon Simulation, the Redifon company, best known for its flight simulators, is to supply what is claimed to be the world's first oil platform simulator to Conoco North Sea.

Costing more than £500,000, the system will be used to train operators for the production process aboard North Sea oil platforms. In particular Conoco will use the simulator to support the build-up to offshore oil production in the Murchison field by the mid-1980s.

Redifon has already supplied process control simulators for land-based plant, and the oil platform scheme is seen as a further breakthrough in the application of simulator techniques to industrial process control.

The new simulator will be installed at Conoco's Aberdeen base during 1979.

Another North Sea project announced yesterday by Redifon at the International Air Show at Farnborough is completion of a helicopter simulator for British Airways for use in conjunction with the airline's Sea King helicopters.

A third North Sea development disclosed yesterday at Farnborough is a simulator for Mobil North Sea for a micro-wave landing system for helicopters. This is to be supplied by MEL of Crawley, West Sussex, a member of the Phillips Industries Group.

This order includes a "ground" station to be installed aboard Mobil's Beryl A platform, and a number of airborne systems for the helicopters. The company's Microwave Aircraft Digital Guidance Equipment (MADGE) system was chosen against competitors from Britain and abroad.

The company describes this as the first commercial order of a British manufactured order of a landing system for operational use.

The total North Sea market for such landing aids is estimated to be about £12m by 1985.

## Gatt report says stabilized dollar and reduced world inflation key factors for growth revival

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva, Sept 4

Western industrial countries can regain increased growth and employment, move towards sustainable payments positions and achieve steady exchange rates only by reducing annual inflation to the 3 per cent average of the mid-1960s.

This is the conclusion of Gatt in its annual report on international trade. It says the United States must take the lead in this direction. Once the dollar begins to stabilize, the stability of the whole system should come more easily.

Uncertainty about the short-term effects of a more resolute stabilization policy was largely responsible for the absence of such a policy and for continued inflation.

The report describes the weakness of investment in the last few years of recovery as striking and explicable only in terms of uncertainties and distortions created by inflation.

A credible commitment by major Western governments to the steady restoration of price stability over the next

few years could hardly fail to reduce economic uncertainty, strengthening business investment and aiding further recovery.

The report says the risks of making price stability the unquestioned first priority were small compared with those created by continuing inflation, the spread of protectionism and the resultant deterioration of international economic relations.

It estimates the value of world trade at about \$1,120,000m in 1977. On the basis of trade returns by the large industrial countries, the volume grew more quickly in the first half of this year—at an annual rate of close to 6 per cent, against 4 per cent last year.

Gatt says the lesson of the past decade is that no international monetary system, whether based on fixed exchange rates, "floating" or managed flexibility, can function satisfactorily when the main trading countries have rapid inflation at such varying rates.

These conditions meant there was no stable world price level or trend to serve

as a reference point for setting national policies and on which to base market expectations.

As a result, the difficulty of ensuring stable international cost-price relationships became much greater.

To illustrate this point, the report cited the 1974 inflation rates of the major OECD countries, which ranged from 7 to 25 per cent, and compared them with last year's range of 1.10 to 17 per cent. Gatt does not believe that a fixed exchange rate system would have been better than floating when inflation rates differed so much.

The report records a "significant increase" in protectionism by the industrial countries in 1977 on textiles and clothing and steel, with protectionist pressure developing in the chemical industry, including plastics.

It says one reason for the rapid spread of protectionism, and the effective political defence against it being so difficult to organize, is lack of agreement about the nature of the problem which pushes governments to protectionism.

## OFT bans further 13 building material pacts

By John Huxley  
A further 13 price-fixing agreements in the building materials industry were added yesterday to the Register of Restrictive Practices by Mr Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading.

The agreements, each of which usually involves companies fixing prices, allocations and specifications, and arranging tenders to ensure that one of their number should win a contract.

Nine of the agreements relate to the supply of aggregates—lime and cement, sand and gravel. Previously, such agreements had been uncovered, and yesterday's additions to the register contained 31 companies whose names were appearing for the first time.

Areas referred to in the agreements were: South Devon; Bristol; Midlands; South Glamorgan and Abercromby; Milton Keynes; Buckinghamshire; Northamptonshire; Bedford-

shire, Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire; Kent and East Sussex; Dorset; Hampshire, and Hampshire for a second time.

Meanwhile, a further four cartels relating to the supply of blacktop, or road surfacing materials, have been added, bringing the total in that sector so far to 122.

All of the pacts have already been terminated, although it is understood that those relating to the supply of blacktop were ended as recently as June last year.

In both sectors and that of ready-mixed concrete, where 159 agreements have been registered, the Office of Fair Trading is continuing its investigations as well as taking action through the courts against those involved.

The chain reaction by which so many unlawful agreements have been uncovered, was started early last year after the existence of price rings in the supply of ready-mixed concrete was disclosed.

## French ship men reject rescue plan

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Sept 4

Workers at the Terrin shipyard in Marseilles rejected out of hand this morning the plan put forward by M. Gilbert Fournier to save the yard.

M. Fournier, president of the Ateliers et Chantiers yard at Le Havre (ACH), had offered to buy part of the yard only, and his plan involved a reduction in the workforce from 3,170 to 1,749, and lower salaries.

It was scarcely surprising, therefore, that the men should have voted overwhelmingly this morning that these conditions were "unacceptable". Their problem is that with the company in the hands of the receivers, the only alternative to accepting the ACH plan at the moment is total closure of the yard.

Thus it was that after today's meeting leaders of the unions involved still agreed to meet M. Fournier to see if there was any hope of finding an agreement. The receivers in consequence agreed in turn to suspend their final judgment until the beginning of next week.

The plan would rely on re-negotiating contracts for naval repairs.

One major stumbling block to a settlement involves the administrative staff of the yard. M. Fournier is seeking 480 redundancies in this area alone, and has met with a total refusal from the unions to accept anything like this figure.

Another moot point is the requirement by the labour inspectorate that any company taking over the yard will be required to meet obligations for redundancy payments.

## PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT

The following are figures released by the CSO for the Government borrowing requirement:

Fin. year	Central Govt	Public Sector	Total borrowing requirement
1977-78	4,427	5,521	4,899
1977-78 Q1	1,458	1,571	1,110
Q2	144	924	317
Q3	1,115	1,107	831
Q4	1,714	1,923	2,445
1978-79 Q1	2,281	1,726	1,974

General government borrowing requirement comprises the central government borrowing requirement and the local authorities contribution to the PSBR. It also includes borrowing by public corporations contribution to the PSBR. This definition of the Government's borrowing requirement is more comparable to that in many other countries.

## UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury:

End of period	£m	Change in month
1977		
Aug	14,852	88,521
Sept	17,171	9,826
Oct	20,211	10,887
Nov	20,344	11,227
Dec	20,657	10,715
1978		
Jan	20,888	10,891
Feb	20,701	10,980
Mar	20,708	10,910
April	17,038	9,327
May	16,661	9,112
June	16,542	8,891
July	16,735	8,970
Aug	16,405	8,447

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Rewards for skilled work

From Mr J. D. Sampson  
Sir, I was intrigued to read the letter that your August 31 issue from Professor Kennaway from the Chemical Engineering Department of Imperial College. He was putting forward the well worn thesis that pay is not the only criterion by which an occupation should be judged, as the job satisfaction of highly skilled, highly responsible or professional employment is reward enough.

Yes, indeed, professor, my members do know the satisfaction of a professional engineering career but they also know that it does not pay the mortgage to enable them to enjoy an equal standard of living to that of their contemporaries who became accountants, lawyers, or even professors. That is why they are making their own ends, some have well away from the productive engineering jobs which are vital to the nation.

I feel tempted to ask whether Professor Kennaway has volunteered to forgo that proportion

of his own salary which raises his remuneration above that of the labourer but, since he confesses some knowledge of what one has to pay to get someone to dig one's garden, I fancy that he hasn't. Most of my members have to dig their own gardens, if, indeed, they can afford a house with a garden at all.

No, professor, the country cannot expect clever youngsters to be routed into engineering education unless it is prepared to see that the job is properly paid when they have been educated and trained to do it.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SAMFSON,  
General Secretary,  
The United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers,  
32 High Street,  
Bookham, Leatherhead,  
Surrey, KT23 4AC.

From Dr Julian H. Jessop  
Sir, Professor Kennaway's letter fails him at the last minute (August 31).

First, espousing the profes-

sional classes' sacrifice of remuneration for noble satisfaction, he then exp their true aspirations. I qu "the majority (of professional people) recognizes vocational training, to a standard of education in themselves leads to jobs and with high rewards other money and indeed that a chance of getting which in money later, something that unskilled worker comes forward to." (My italics).

This not inconsiderable bit of argument which price is raised and the USSR special cases. In a economy, where success is realized in material terms reduction in pay leads to a reduction in quality. Such human nature.

To put it another way, if pay peanuts, you get monkey. Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN H. JESSOP,  
27 Englewood Road,  
London, SE12 6JZ,  
September 1.

## Institutional shareholders and company structure

From Mr Peter McGregor  
Sir, A few weeks ago you published a letter of mine in which I recommended that there should be a serious examination of the merits of a new structure of company management board and a supervisory council in a context which was not exclusively concerned with the question of employee participation. The disagreement between the pension funds and Allied Breweries adds point to this suggestion, as does the article by Christopher Wilkins in your edition of August 25.

The instinctive reaction in this country has been to start to talk about "audit committees of the board". But it is not strange that the institutional shareholders committee failed to consider seriously alternative company structures as a way of providing a more positive two-way line of communication between shareholders and the management? Concentration on information and confidential approaches by directors to institutional shareholders and vice versa does pose the problem of "insider information", as Christopher Wilkins clearly points out.

What the social responsibilities of shareholders and companies should be is a question on its own, but certainly there is an obligation on shareholders to behave like shareholders in the private sector to have any justification at all.

If institutional developments have made it difficult for shareholders to behave like

shareholders, then the institutions should be re-examined. Christopher Wilkins says: "Let's open up the door to explore what mechanisms could be created to enable investors and managements to collaborate more closely, but institutions were profoundly worried by the implications. They took the view that their job was investing in rather than managing companies. They felt that they lacked the skills to become more involved in the working of the companies whose shares they held."

No one would wish to dispute this general view point, least of all those who have worked in industry; but the combination of a professional management board with a formal, understood, and regular relationship with supervisory council representing the shareholders must avoid the kind of problem that we have seen in the Allied Breweries/J. Lyons case and the others cited by Christopher Wilkins.

May I repeat my suggestion that the company structure could be usefully discussed in a context not exclusively concerned with employee participation. The efficient discharge of the responsibilities of shareholders, particularly institutional shareholders, and the understanding of the professional shareholders of the management board have their own attractions.

PETER MCGREGOR,  
Secretary General,  
Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society,  
St. Stephen's House,  
London SW1A 2LA.

## Premium Bond prizes

From Mr J. Walters  
Sir, Your report (August 3) that a Premium Bond week jackpot of £75,000 is to be introduced, whereas 25 pips will no longer get £1,000 prize. What good will it do to increase the number of free incomes? Hard work of further study, inventive savings, business enterprise and pensions are highly taxed. Compared with the prospect of an end of the week forum from the football pools, the Premium Bond scheme is remote and a postwar credit pool wins too are ignored a taxable income. The extreme example is the record win of £680,697: to produce an after tax earned income that size married man with 10 children would have to earn £3,955,394 in a year.

Yours faithfully,  
J. WALTERS,  
6 Eusebia Close,  
Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, August 30.

From Mr David L. Gullick  
Sir, Mr J. R. Chester (September 1) is quite right. I took up the point with the bond authorities when the lure of the large prize (at very long odds) was introduced some years ago. I suggested, not unreasonably, I hope, that if there are "investors who fancy long shots" as in the table chess football pools—then the fair thing would be a separate series of Premium Bonds for them, not transferring those who preferred small prizes at shorter odds willfully into an entirely different ball game.

Needless to say, the reply was wholly unsatisfactory. I then sold all my Premium Bonds. Yours faithfully,  
DAVID L. GULLICK,  
8 Canonsfield Road,  
Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 0QH.

From Mr A. J. Ramsay  
Sir, Maurice Corina is right to state that most small employers are genuinely bemused by the complexities of employment protection legislation (articles of August 30-31 on Industrial Tribunals). Ought he not to have pointed out that the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 consolidates much of the diverse legislation to be considered in assessing whether a proposed dismissal is fair?

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. RAMSAY,  
22 Park Hill,  
London, SW4.

## PO practice

From Mrs Sally Oppenheim, MP for Gloucester (Conservative)  
Sir, With reference to the article on August 10 in the Business Diary, I entirely agree with all the remarks made by Ross Davies. I have been in correspondence with both the Post Office Users' National Council (POUNC) and the Minister about these Codes of Practice for some time.

A fairly satisfactory Code was submitted for the telecommunications service but a wholly unsatisfactory one was submitted for the mail service. I would believe that this matter has dragged on for too long. I have accordingly written both to the Minister and to the Secretary of POUNC, asking them what steps they are taking to expedite it and to the Secretary of the Conservative government will wish to look at very closely in office.

SALLY OPPENHEIM,  
House of Commons.

## Keeping motor industry jobs

From Mr P. V. Muston  
Sir, Since the announcement of the prospective takeover of Chrysler UK by the prosperous and effective Peugeot-Citroën company, our trade union leaders have been loud in their many demands—for the deal to be blocked or for the Government to take a controlling share in the deal or for Peugeot-Citroën to give job guarantees. But these same union leaders have been deafeningly silent on

ways of achieving what is really needed if the British motor industry workforce are to retain their jobs—the end of shop-floor disruption and the beginning of increased production of cars—more reliable, better finished and competitively priced. That this is the only way to job security was sensibly made clear by the president of Peugeot-Citroën.

PHILIP MUSTON,  
37 Sandy Lane,  
Richmond, Surrey.

## CELESTION INDUSTRIES

Mr. D. D. Pienn (Chairman) reports on the year ended 1st April, 1978.

### MAJOR ACQUISITION

Wood Bastow Group, garment suppliers to Marks & Spencer, and manufacturers of "Slix" swimwear, acquired in November 1977.

### TURNOVER INCREASE

From £12,389,000 to £20,033,600.

### PRE-TAX PROFIT

Up from £1,093,418 to £1,178,527.

### HIGHER DIVIDEND

Net dividend 75p per share against 429p last year. (65p forecast at time of Wood Bastow acquisition).

### EXPORTS UP 50%

From £3,348,000 to £5,060,000.

### PROSPECTS

More encouraging prospects for current year and further growth expected in future.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary.

Celestion Industries Limited,  
130 Mount Street, London W1Y 5HA.

Telephone: 01-499 5641

## Private house starts show August decline

Builders started work on 11,300 private homes during August, according to figures published yesterday by the independent National House-Building Council.

This total was down on the 12,861 starts made in July, and the 14,535 average over the previous three months. Although a slight dip is expected in August, it still came as a disappointment to the council, which earlier this year was forecasting between 140,000 and

145,000 private house starts this year.

It now looks as though this figure will not be reached, although starts should still be higher than the 135,000 in 1977, one of the poorest in the last decade.

The council said that the decline, which comes after six buoyant months, may be associated with delays in obtaining mortgage funds. Building society representatives have

already given a warning to the Government that raising National Savings interest rates will reduce the flow of money into the securities.

The council, whose returns are generally more up to date than those produced by the Department of the Environment, is studying the figures for house starts on a week-by-week basis, and will be looking carefully for signs that production is falling to the low level of recent years.



## Stepping Stones—Non-Secretarial—Secretarial—Temporary & Part Time Vacancies—

### LA CREME DE LA CREME

#### OIL EXPLORATIONS SECRETARY TO £4,700

Work with an International Group of oil companies. The job is to negotiate with N. American oil companies. The pace tends to be hectic at times, with frequent overtime. The position is in New York, New York. The salary is £4,700 per annum. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

Tel.: Brenda Terry (Consultant) 405 7711 David White Associates

#### FRENCH/GERMAN £5,000 neg.

Lively efficient p.a. 25-40 with fluency in written and spoken languages plus a good knowledge of French and German. The position is in London. The salary is £5,000 neg. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

Excellent bonus. Jane Gould, 636 8917 ALFRED MARKS STAFF BUREAU

#### DESIGN COMPANY needs PERSON FRIDAY £3,800 plus LVS

For the creative manager, design duties, collecting, sales, person who is able to work under pressure. "Four weeks" holiday. Excellent bonus. Jane Gould, 636 8917 ALFRED MARKS STAFF BUREAU

#### PARIS WITH PLEASURE

Two Sec/PAs required for a French company. The position is in Paris. The salary is £3,800 plus LVS. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

Excellent bonus. Jane Gould, 636 8917 ALFRED MARKS STAFF BUREAU

#### A Way of Life

Promotion to French Sec/PAs. The position is in London. The salary is £3,800 plus LVS. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

Excellent bonus. Jane Gould, 636 8917 ALFRED MARKS STAFF BUREAU

### LA CREME DE LA CREME

#### Legal Secretaries

Solicitors in Gray's Inn Road have vacancies for experienced Secretaries to work at partnership level. If you are looking for a responsible, varied job with an excellent salary in an expanding, friendly firm, we should be pleased to hear from you. Good typing speed and a pleasant manner essential. Shopping facilities and Underground/Main Line stations nearby. Working conditions are pleasant and modern. Please telephone Mr. Whitehead on 01-278 4121 to introduce yourself.

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with fluent ENGLISH AND GERMAN International law firm in Frankfurt/Main requires an experienced Secretary. Salary approximately £425,000 per annum and assistance with relocation expenses. If appropriate, initial interviews will be held in London. Please apply, enclosing curriculum vitae, to Box 2100K, The Times.

#### Assistant Account/Exec for small PR Consultancy

To implement and initiate a wide range of PR and communications work. Initiative and a sense of humour are the desire to become an integral part of the team. Salary £3,500 per annum. Please apply to: SUSAN HAMILTON, 33 St. George's St. W.1, Tel. 488 5607.

#### Director's Treasure

As a 1st class PA Secretary to a Director, you will be in the position of a Director's Treasure. The position is in London. The salary is £4,500. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

#### £4,000-£5,000

We have 36 current Secretarial/PA vacancies in the above range. Our completely impartial reports (intended not only to attract like-minded people but also to prevent those who are not) are too lengthy to include here. You can have our up-to-date list sent to you by return of post or by calling.

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### LA CREME DE LA CREME

#### Interested in Getting Into Advertising?

We are looking for a PA/SECRETARY for an account handler whose accounts include airlines and publishers. Ideal applicant will have a good business background, be able to type efficiently and be intelligent, ambitious, pleasant and genuinely like people. Terrible opportunity for anyone looking for a career in the fascinating world of advertising. Salary negotiable to £4,000.

If you think you fit the bill, apply in writing, enclosing cv and snapshot, if available, to: Ms. Sandy Ellis, 8 Hyde St., London, W1.

#### BAKER STREET SECRETARY/PA £4,500 + LV's

Working for the Marketing Executive of International Company. The position is in London. The salary is £4,500 + LV's. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

#### "Party Planners"

offer an exciting opportunity in a small friendly office for an experienced secretary. The position is in London. The salary is £4,500 + LV's. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

#### PART-TIME VACANCIES

HAMPSTEAD—Secretary required for immediate for Principal of Nursery. Training College. The position is in London. The salary is £4,500 + LV's. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

#### AUDIO SECRETARY

required by West End music publisher. The position is in London. The salary is £4,500 + LV's. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

#### WOULD YOU like to help me start a work in my home?

See me at my home. The position is in London. The salary is £4,500 + LV's. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable. The job is very exciting and never a dull moment. The position is very challenging and offers a great opportunity for career advancement. The salary is negotiable.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Back to the realities

A possibility of an election announcement next week, the prospect of the TUC in 1980 throwing a spanner into the Government's 5 per cent pay ceiling, and an adverse crop of economic forecasts over the weekend was enough to curb the enthusiasm of the institutions yesterday for equities.

The new account got off to a poor start with a FT 30-share index closing 4.6 points off 493.4 taking it almost 30 points off its high for the year a fortnight ago.

After such a sharp rise through August, a really very little change in the fundamentals, some correction was inevitable—deed with the herd-like instinct of the institutions the surprise is that as election

rumours grow the setback was not more pronounced. During the run-up to the election the market looks unlikely to shift out of the 10 to 520 trading range. Thereafter a substantial Labour majority would hardly

inspire confidence while a sizable Conservative victory could unsettle the market if a clash with the trade unions seemed on the cards.

For the moment, however, the weight of one argument still underpins equities at a rise to their current levels with institutional interest in gilts tempered by the prospect of higher United States interest rates offsetting the widely anticipated drop in United Kingdom rates later this year to keep the Government funding programme on

course. One of the important elements in the recent rise in United Kingdom equities, however, has been the strength of overseas

speculators from Wall Street to Hong Kong. At the key, of course, is the United States economy and if the Administration there is

do anything about the dollar it will involve a deflationary action at home which will reverberate around the world.

Faced with unexciting prospects for the world economy the United Kingdom equities will need some yield attraction to move on to higher ground and that seems unlikely at present. So the chances of equities continuing their uninterrupted rise after the election still looks unlikely with gilts the better bet—though not yet a while.

Meanwhile, a seasonally adjusted public sector borrowing requirement of £1,726m in the first quarter of the present financial year appears, at first sight anyway, to be under-shooting the full year ceiling of 8,500m by a very comfortable margin. But

the first quarter is after all, only the first quarter and the erratic movements in the seasonally adjusted figures over recent quarters does suggest a need for considerable caution. Indeed, all the official noises seem to be that the first quarter outcome, probably no better than consistent with the full year ceiling.

Quite apart from anything else, the size and timing of this year's income tax adjustments are a complicating factor. What is clear, however, is that the bulk of these will make themselves felt in subsequent quarters, albeit that there will be some effect in the second half as the National Insurance surcharge takes effect. What is more, the borrowing requirements of the local authorities—negative in the first quarter—and the public corporations will come less favourable as the year progresses.

As far as the local authorities are concerned, the situation seems to have been that they finished the last financial year with significant cash balances. These they have since been reducing by running off their term debt again, but at the same time cash longer term borrowing has not been exceptionally large in the May-June period: £306m.

Food retailers

Still enjoying premium rating

June sales by food retailers are now out 10 per cent higher than last year which has had the effect of damping down a high street price war for the time being. International Stores, which is abandoning trading stamps, could be about to go back on the offensive, but the feeling in the trade is that competitive pressure on margins will ease gradually up to the end of the year, even if a return to pre-price margin levels is unlikely.

However, as Hoare Govett point out in new analysis of food retailing, the sector's

historically high market rating has not been affected by the price war. Food retailing shares have outperformed fractionally over the past 12 months. This is all the more surprising as, excluding Tesco and Associated Dairies, Hoare, for example, is forecasting profits growth this year of 13 per cent which is very much in line with the corporate sector as a whole.

The point, of course, is that food price inflation has tailed off sharply (to 2.8 per cent in all foods by March and 9 per cent in processed foods) while costs have been rising at a higher rate, thus reversing the equation which has traditionally helped food retailing profits.

The hope is that the present improvement in volume will be sufficient to offset the adverse movement of the cost-price ratio. However, it is difficult to find bulls while the sector is rated 20 per cent above the market, although most agree that takeover excitement will continue to help the shares of smaller companies.

Overall, though, the most likely outcome must be that the current volume strength will buoy up the shares for the time being, and that next year a likely volume downturn could well be eased by renewed food price inflation prompting intermittent bouts of price cutting. It is not a prospect that will inspire much excitement in the sector.

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Ferranti

## The way back

A year ago Ferranti's shares were selling in unofficial dealings at below 200p; by the time excellent results were reported in late June the price was up to 360p; when share dealings were finally halted only a week later the price had reached a heady 470p.

Allowing for the element of rights entitlement relating to the NEB's sale of 12½ per cent of the equity, the price of 200p—100p after the one-for-one scrip issue—at which the NEB's offer to shareholders is being made implies a price much in line with the suspension price. Moreover, there is every reason to think that this level is more than

supportable. On fully-taxed historic earnings of 21p after the scrip the sale price would leave Ferranti selling at 9½ times earnings and yielding 4½ per cent. By the standards of



Mr. Derek Allen-Jones, managing director of Ferranti (left), with Mr. Sebastian de Ferranti, the chairman.

the market as a whole that is a fairly high rating, but it is no more than average for the sector. Arguably Ferranti is worth better than average.

Roughly half its business lies in the fashionable defence industry, and there is not much doubt that, for two or three years at least, the defence operations will be growing fast on the back of the important Tornado contract. Ferranti itself avoids a profit forecast, but talks of a "material increase" in sales, an outside profit projections fall in the £11m-£15m range against £9.1m last year. The prospective p/e ratio at 200p is thus 8, which looks unduly cautious.

The other factor likely to weigh in Ferranti's favour is the relative lack of existing institutional shareholdings. Besides the NEB's remaining 50 per cent, a further 28 per cent is held by the Ferranti family and 6 per cent by Charter Consolidated.

Ferranti, aside from being a familiar name, will probably be capitalized at between £45m and £55m so a lot of institutions will want to buy into its continuing growth potential. There should be few worries about the market's ability to mop up any sales by the family.

Jack Peel on reforms which could strengthen the TUC's role in society

## Awkward questions for the unions

Governments may come and go but the TUC—like Tennyson's brook, goes on forever. The implications of this permanence are unlikely to be heard from the rostrum at Brighton this week, but they should be considered. In the grip of pre-election fever the TUC is likely to be cosier and more conspiratorial than usual.

Understandably, the loud noises will be orchestrated in support of the Labour Government, but the TUC has been trenchant in its criticism of incomes policy and high unemployment.

Whatever the outcome of the election the TUC will remain a powerful and influential pressure group. For the TUC to prefer Labour is one thing—but it would be wise not to give too many hostages to fortune. To be able to work with any government implies moderation, strong leadership and a minimum of political sabre-rattling.

In the heavy atmosphere of this week's debate it may seem that in postwar years the TUC's General Council has sometimes worked more smoothly and efficiently with a Tory rather than Labour administration.

The historical and political affinity between Labour and the trade unions, his argument that both sides have tended to take each other for granted. They have expected too much from each other and their relationships have been tetchy and sometimes hostile, as in 1969 on the White Paper in Place of Strife.

Relationships between the TUC and Conservative governments have generally been cooler and more formal, though impeccably correct. Neither side has taken chances and progress has been made as a consequence. This position was soured on the Conservative side by the devastating argument over the Industrial Relations Act and sweetened for Labour by the crisis-induced social contract—both bringing instinctive though opposite reactions from the TUC.

Paradoxically, a Labour victory at the next election could bring bigger headaches for the TUC than Conservative success. Labour is determined to continue some form of incomes policy as a continuing arrangement and is also committed to



View of the platform at the TUC conference in Brighton yesterday.

legislation or industrial democracy. On both of these issues TUC-affiliated unions are divided. To take them seriously would mean fresh responsibilities for trade unions, including full reform of wage structures and a new breed of bargainers. It would indeed involve change in the very nature of trade unions and a challenge to their whole raison d'être.

If the Conservatives win the election, they are likely to take a softer line on both points, though the need for some form of incomes policy should be above the party battle. The Tories will certainly not try to put the unions in a legislative straitjacket, bearing in mind the disaster over the Industrial Relations Act.

Surprisingly, the real danger to the TUC is not from a rampaging Conservative government, but from within its own ranks—from those trade unionists who are willing to allow it remain a prisoner of its history in order to avoid the trauma of change.

There are several awkward questions which will soon force their way onto TUC agendas. Take first free collective bargaining, which has contributed to industrial democracy over the years by extending the area of joint control. Bargaining, however, has many facets, which are quite outside the control of work-people—the elasticity of demand for a product is an example.

Moreover, the concept of trade unions alone providing an adequate counterweight to multinational companies is open to doubt unless much more effort is devoted to international trade unionism.

It is painfully evident that free collective bargaining does

not provide social justice because it leaves highly vulnerable to the actions of the reckless and ruthless few.

But the structural problem goes deeper too, as the representativeness of officials in the area of politics is also in doubt. The difference between the TUC voting figures and the national referendum on the European Community is a case in point.

An overriding economic motive for trade union membership is that members do not always show their dissent to unions' political policies, a fact which should sober those leaders who occasionally become frenetic about political issues.

Finally, the use of the strike weapon should be seriously reviewed by the TUC. Free collective bargaining was conceived in a society which was largely unorganised, with our own strikes may be dismissed as irrelevant in the context of sacrosanct collective bargaining, but modern society is almost completely dependent on certain groups of workers.

A dispute in the power industry for example means more than lighting a candle or missing a favourite television programme. It can mean shivering pensioners, people trapped in high rise flats because the lifts do not work, or even the lives of people on kidney machines.

The appalling delays suffered by holiday families in airports during the French air traffic controllers' strike further illustrates that the use of the strike weapon in key sectors has a devastating effect on the public and is socially quite indiscriminate. There must be a more civilised way—even of being difficult—than bashing a suffering and innocent public.

The TUC might consider compulsory or binding arbitration and to give key sector workers who waive the right to strike a reward by putting them in a higher range of wage-earners and giving them a self-adjusting differential well above an agreed base.

Clearly the expectation of responsible behaviour must be balanced with a meeting of material needs so that the best behaved do not always have to be equated with the lowest paid. Moderates have always seemed to be penalized for their reasonableness in British trade unions.

Over the years the TUC has forced the pace of change and made a firm and beneficial impact on governments and society, but primarily as a weapon of defence—not as a positive instrument of change. Britain's problems are now urgent and complex that unions must believe in change themselves in order to be effective in changing society.

You would not normally put a teetotaler in charge of a drinking contest. In the same way if unions press for drastic changes in the social order, they should accept that they are part of the society they are trying to change, and adjust their thinking and actions accordingly.

Conservatism is hardly the best breeding ground for radicalism. Britain gave birth to football and trade unionism and is still regarded with a basic reverence in both fields by enthusiasts who have taken us to regain the World Cup, so to speak, the TUC will have to look to its laurels.

The author is director of industrial relations in the Employment and Social Affairs Directorate of the EEC. From 1966 to 1972 he was a member of the TUC General Council.

## Spain's stock market on threshold of change

Madrid "If we had all been democrats, there would not have been any crisis in the Spanish stock market," Spanish stockbroker José Manuel Nunez Lagos explains that "the average stock has dropped 65 per cent in four years."

While there are more than 600 companies listed on the Bolsa de Madrid, only a small fraction of the nation's commerce and industry, and a great many of those 600 are rarely traded.

Furthermore, a selection of not more than 10 stocks, among which are those of the major banks, certain electric power companies and the Spanish national telephone company, account for more than 75 per cent of the stock market capitalization.

Yet, despite the drop and the other defects, it is a potentially healthy market today, in the opinion of Sr. Nunez Lagos, than it was under Franco.

"The degree of concentration in the Spanish market is extremely high. It is comparable in Europe only to the Dutch and Swiss stock markets, with the difference being that the concentration in those markets is owing to the multinationals," he says.

"The rest of the Madrid market is made up of investment companies, funds and industrial companies which barely account

for 15 per cent. This is one of the serious structural defects of our market and, naturally, it should evolve toward a greater emphasis on industrial stocks."

The Madrid market has nosedived bottom, according to Sr. Nunez Lagos. "The factors that made the market fall for four years between April 24, 1974, and March 17 of this year—a day on which the minimum of the crash was reached—no longer have a depressive effect."

He lists increased political security and the attention to a sound economic policy on the part of the government as positive factors which should be long, push market prices up. But these, by themselves, are not enough, and must be accompanied by a change in attitude on the part of the companies and the investors.

"The atmosphere is better than it was, but it is still not entirely clear," he says. "Every day it's a little better but the investor still sees things with a shadowy vision. Politically, things are better but it will take time for the investor to realize that."

"One of my colleagues recently complained that on a day on which terrorists shot two high-ranking army officers dead the market hardly reacted."

"I told him that is one of the best signs I've seen in a long time. It's high time that this market reacted to economic rather than purely political factors."

## Harry Debelius

the best signs I've seen in a long time. It's high time that this market reacted to economic rather than purely political factors."

"There is still insufficient recognition of how important a contribution is in spite of the fact that the constitution is about to be approved. This will have positive effects. But so far the investor is still accustomed to other political schemes and other ways."

Sr. Nunez Lagos argues that "more than anything else, reform of the market itself is necessary," and is, he believes, on the way. A key reform should be to oblige firms to give more information.

"Then the way the market operates will have to be changed, in the sense of promoting a clearer interaction between supply and demand. Until now, changes in quotations often responded to noneconomic motivation," he says.

"Spanish investors just did not ask for information. And this is precisely where the investor also will have to undergo reformation. All you have to do is see how the annual general meetings are conducted and see the appalling level of the financial culture, listen to the sporadic and peripheral questions which a few shareholders pose in order to realize that the lack of information is not merely the fault of the companies issuing stock. Investors simply did not demand it."

In Sr. Nunez Lagos's opinion, the market under Franco reflected an artificial stability. Even the experts were fooled.

Speaking of the price-earnings (p/e) ratio he admits that he was one of the first persons to apply this system in evaluating Spanish stocks. He realized that the p/e ratio of most Spanish stocks was very high, yet it did not occur to him why.

"The p/e ratio is used a lot more here now than before," he remarks. "And the p/e ratios have improved considerably since the drop in the market. Quite often now the p/e ratio of a good stock is less than seven, whereas in some cases before it was as high as 20 or 30."

For a long time it was said, and right so, that the p/e ratio of Spanish stocks was high compared to other national stock markets. In spite of that, most of us who used the p/e ratio did not make that circumstance into account."

The outcome was similar to what happened with the companies and the investors. When you are in a closed information circuit, your judgments and opinions are deformed.

Now that the market has touched bottom, it can only go up, Sr. Nunez Lagos believes, and he is convinced that the good working record of the Moncloa pact—the multiparty agreement of economic guidelines—has a favourable influence on stocks.

In my opinion, the biggest difficulty for some people will be in accepting a rise in certain issues and not in others. The rise cannot be general and indiscriminate any more, because the emotional orchestration is lacking, that unreal triumphal context is missing, there is no longer that pervasive spirit of undying allegiance.

"I mean to say that I don't think that can ever happen again, and I don't think it would be desirable if it did, and the collapse which the market suffered is a consequence of that emotional crescendo."

The necessary changes will not be easy to bring about, he maintains.

"For the market to start going up, the crisis in investment and the high level of unemployment will have to be corrected. Business is still in a tight spot for reasons of our problems, risks, political difficulties in financing and so forth."

Private enterprise is suffering a crisis in Spain. It is in crisis because it must reorganize all of its relationships—with the trade unions, which are different from before; with the banks because money is not as cheap as it used to be; and with the stock market, in other words with the shareholders, who will want and be entitled to more information about companies than in the past.

The post-Franco investor is much more critical, much more demanding, and he wants a good profit record more than political reassurance. "I believe that the most outstanding thing about the market today, the most positive sign of evolution, is precisely its calmness."

It has finally, after that hypersensitivity to disturbances of public order. Undeniably the consequences of such disturbances can be very sad, very serious when human lives are at stake. But when the system of government is stable, they are not a matter of financial concern. They are not a matter which should affect investment in general. I think the market is beginning to understand this at last."

## Business Diary: Labour day and lawn-mowers

Labour Day

Glenn Watts, the fraternal delegate from the AFL-CIO (the American version of the TUC) used his address at the Trades Union Congress yesterday (Labour Day in the United States) to cast a little cold water on the belief that American unions and management are just one big happy family.

"In the United States," he said, "there is much talk about 'collaboration' between labour/management operation. Recently we have 'und out' as we have so many times in the past, that this is a jargon word."

The tight money policy of the Fed, he said, was "choking off" economic growth and leading to rather than easing inflation. Watts urged President Carter to oblige American businessmen and bankers to "hold the line" on prices and interest rates. He also appeared to speak out in favour of import controls.

There was, however, a lighter moment when he and 45 Watts were presented with British-made dinner service by David Bassett, the general secretary of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers and this year's chairman of the TUC.

Amusing over a specimen size Watts said he always joked at where a gift came from because when similar presentations were made at one it was often difficult to tell anything that was actually late in America. Watts, who represents communications workers, said with some feeling

that it was, for instance, impossible to buy a radio made in the United States.

Bob Garland's attempt to dislodge George Guy from his seat on the general council, on which I reported last month, has resulted in a boost here.

The AUEW delegation, I hear, has voted by 33 to 29, to support Garland in today's general council election. The closeness of the vote, however, may owe much to the reluctance of the AUEW's left to go along with the desire of their new right-wing leadership to unseat Guy.

Garland is general secretary of the founding section of the AUEW and a right-winger. Guy is general secretary of the small National Union of Sheet Metal Workers. He and Ken Gill, general secretary of the AUEW's white collar section, are the only two Communist Party members on the TUC general council.

Guy, I hear, is to receive the vote of the Transport and General Workers, Britain's biggest union. The chances are that many other unions, including those with no obvious left-wing bias, will take the same line as the T & G. Traditionally there is reluctance to turn out sitting general council members.

For the moment, therefore, Guy remains favourite.

Alastair Graham, the deputy general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, who is speaking in today's pensions debate, gave me a postscript to a little internal industrial dispute.

The left-dominated executive of the union nearly missed its pre-TUC meeting when staff picked the meeting place in protest at the executive's proposal to exclude senior full-time officials from attending selection committees for national officer posts.

A CPSA picket telephoned the Morning Star to complain about lack of coverage of the dispute in the paper. He was told, says Graham, "you can't expect us to write about a dispute of this nature until we have had the employers' point of view."

"Employers", in so far as the CPSA is concerned, involves an executive dominated by a "broad left" faction of anybody from Communists to left-wing Labour Party members.

Hugh Scanlon, the outgoing general secretary of the AUEW, is, at 64, as fit as many a man half his age. (Indeed, looking at some of my fellow backs here in Brighton he is probably even fitter.) It therefore seems to have come as a surprise to one member on the executive of the union's construction section on being told of the retirement gift Scanlon would like: "a sit-on motorized lawn-mower."

"Get him a skateboard and a pair of skis," the executive member is alleged to have snorted.

Perhaps Jack Macgoughan, general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, should have



Nube's Leif Mills and Wilson committee tie (above) in Brighton yesterday and (below) the tie motif.

The world might go along these lines: "Look, old son, you stop designing any more ties and my lady and I have to start cashing cheques."

Mills has been a collector of ties, but he told me yesterday the one you see in Harry Kerr's picture is an original Mills design. It is the tie of the Committee to Review the Functioning of Financial Institutions, otherwise known as the Wilson committee on the day from its chairman, Sir Harold Wilson. The tie is navy blue with a red and white motif. This motif is not the initials "WC" as one was suggested, but the City shield surmounted by a Saint George on horseback.

On close examination, the tie is revealed to be that of the Saint—but of Sir Harold. And instead of a sword Sir Harold brandishes a pipe.

This is not a one-off by Mills. He and Nube are churning out a new tie each time a staff association joins the union—the last being the Guardian Royal Exchange staff union earlier this year.

If I get no more from this congress I will treasure the following insult that I heard when I dropped in at the Star and Garter pub for an infrequent pause for refreshment: "John, called out a languid drinker, 'the conversation here is getting a little excited. Do come over and bore us a little.'"

[More from Brighton, tomorrow.]

Ross Davies



Report of The Wellman Engineering Corporation Limited for the year ended 31st March 1978

Salient points from the circulated Statement of the Chairman Mr. Alan C. N. Hopkins, M.A., LL.B.

Profit before tax up 10%		
Percentage of pre-tax profit on Shareholders' funds 27%		
Order Book 80% higher than at corresponding time last year		
Business of British Furnaces acquired		
Facts and Figures	1978	1977
Profit before Taxation	£ 1,553,112	£ 1,408,997
Profit after taxation	753,493	646,544
Assets Employed	6,881,227	6,025,926
Asset Value	61.1p	53.5p
Earnings after tax	8.69p	5.74p
Dividend	2.396p	2.145p

WELLMAN



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## TUC fears bring light selling

The new account got off to a quiet start in the stock market yesterday as investors await this week's heavy outpour of economic and company news before taking any "buy" or "sell" decisions.

The institutions, in particular, were notably absent yesterday and the drop in share prices was mainly attributable to special situations and small investors taking some profit. As has been the case during most sessions for the past few weeks, much of the action has taken place in the first hour or so of trading and yesterday was no exception. Under the shadow of the TUC conference and worries that the delegates will vote against the Government's wage restraint policy, the FT Ordinary share index had dipped over six points by 11 a.m. However, some small buying in the afternoon, in otherwise listless conditions, left the index only 4.6 lower by the close at 493.4.

Whessoe's shares have fallen 25p to 63p since May when the group, disconcertingly announced that profits this year to the end of the month will be down, not up. Now one or two income funds are starting to show interest. The yield is now a secure 11.5 per cent and profits should still be as good as £2.5m or possibly £2.6m against a peak £3.42m.

A fall of £330m in the United Kingdom official reserves in August made no impact whatsoever on a dull gilt-edged market where, in shorts, stocks generally closed as they opened. Where changed, long-term gilts were not expected today's banking figures to influence prices.

There has been little business in this market for the past three or four weeks and brokers Shephards & Associates forecast the current inertia continuing until after an election. In the short term, the brokers expect the British Funds market to go easier.

Leader-stocks were generally off the bottom by the close, leaving ICI with half-time results on Thursday at 394p and Becton & Dickinson at 703p unchanged and Unilever a penny harder at 365p. Fisons improved 2p to 375p but GKN at 277p, Cour-

tauld at 113p, Glaxo at 605p and Metal Box at 356p, eased back. In a lifeless electricals sector, GEC at 302p shed 4p, while Thorn at 30p to 374p and EMI slipped 2p to 146p. Recent high-flyer Electromechanics also eased 2p to 583p while Racal held steady at 320p.

Adverse comment on Dunlop's forthcoming results trimmed 4p from the shares at 72p while profit taking clipped 6p from Leigh interests at 450p. Pilkington's one for one share split left the equity drifting down to a 305p close, against 624p on Friday. In buildings, John Laing shed 6p to 205p on further digestion of the property hire-off deal while Taylor Woodrow added 2p to 444p and William Press climbed a penny to 27p on similar hopes. Speculative interest has also been attracted to North-east building and property group, Bellway Holdings, which firmed 41p to 74p at one stage. However, the group firmly denied any last night that it was involved in any sort of bid talks.

Glaxo Securities came back from a 12-day suspension 75p higher at 380p after a bid from Legal & General, 2p lower at 365p while bid news also helped Wm Mowat climb 31p to 513p.

In stores, Bourne & Hollingsworth firmed 71p to 272p on hopes of further take-over news.

In front of figures today Plessey at 101p and BICC at 122p ended a couple of pence higher. Sun Alliance lost 3p to 547p and Guardian Royal Ex-

change firmed 2p to 230p ahead of results tomorrow.

Trading news yesterday helped Electrical & Industrial 3p better at 58p, and West of England Trust 2p higher at 56p but Esperanza shed 10p to 135p and Pittard lost 5p to 53p after failing to satisfy market hopes.

Somportex was marked 5p lower to 68p on news of an earnings error. Oils were mixed with Dome Petroleum, a Canadian group which recently took a stake in Siebens, leading the way up. A possible oil find off Alaska added £7 3/16 to the stock at £59. With figures on Thursday BP eased 2p to 876p while Shell slipped 3p to 562p.

Still encouraged by recent good figures KCA International firmed a penny to 31p.

An encouraging broker's comment added 8p to De Beers at 440p.

Speculative interest added 40p to Caledonian Associated Cinemas at 460p, in a very tight market but isolated dull spots included Davy International 5p lower at 267p and ICL which tumbled 14p to 364p.

In banks, Barclays lost 5p to 338p. National Westminster shed 4p to 268p while Midland shed 3p to 350p and Lloyds eased 2p to 258p.

Properties were mixed with Deagen 5p lower at 100p, continuing to fall but some buying of Dalgety added 3p to the shares at 300p.

Fears of an adverse report on motorway restaurants clipped 6p from Trust House Forte at 215p while Linford lost another 10p to 137p on the back of

recent disappointing figures. Cadbury Schweppes held steady at 57p in front of results this week.

J. Lyons firmed a penny to 136p on hopes that Allied Breweries, 1p easier at 83p, will placate merger opponents.

Peacage of Birmingham has done little more than mark time at around 60p since its initial start six weeks ago on news that bid talks were taking place. The group is involved in discussions with three potential suitors, though if a bid does come—and September 20 is the date being mooted—it is thought that it will be agreed by the directors. Fellow Midlands group, Neuman-Tonks denied last night that it was one of the groups involved.

Weekend comment had an effect on several stocks adding 1p to Unilever, at 51p, Otter Exploration at 45p, Mettoy at 68p and Braby Leslie at 86p. By contrast, Sotheby at 274p, McCarthy's Pharmaceutical at 101p and Hestair at 97p fell back.

Stock exchange transactions in August amounted to £12,281m against a previous £16,211m with gilts contribution £6,285m, compared to £9,063m and equities £2,206m against £1,690m.

Equity turnover on September 1 was £76.5m (19,069 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, BP, Chubb, Marks & Spencer, National Westminster, Trust Houses Forte, Dunlop and Bourne & Hollingsworth.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Cantors (F)	16.2(14.5)	0.52(0.22)	7.49(2.64)	1.43(1.27)	—	2.26(2.02)
Cornell Dresses (I)	0.97(0.71)	0.04(0.03)	0.21(—)	—(Nil)	—	—
Dares Est (I)	1.85(1.1)	0.14(0.09)	—	0.25(Nil)	1/2	(—0.5)
Esperanza Trade (F)	38.4(35.2)	3.03(2.32)	12.8(5.5)	3.64(3.25)	—	5.64(5.05)
Fitzwillton (F)	3.1(40.5)	1.1(0.5)	4.09(5.07)	2.0(0.7)	—	4.0(3.26)
Garnar Scotland (I)	—	0.57(0.50)	—	2.0(0.5)	27/10	(—4.25)
R & H Hall (I)	42.3(44.3)	1.3(1.13)	4.02(3.32)	0.48(0.4)	1/9	(—2.1)
Mersey Docks (I)	32.1(30.7)	1.78(1.3)	8.89(16.3)	1.9(1.7)	—	(—)
Metal Closures (I)	27.4(26.9)	2.5(2.52)	5.46(5.53)	1.9(1.7)	6/11	(—4.2)
Pittard (I)	7.99(9.4)	0.58(1.13)	3.7(7.5)	2.0(0.7)	2/11	(—2.25)
Revertex Chemicals (I)	31.7(29.8)	1.81(1.57)	—	1.17(1.17)	15/11	(—2.35)
Scott East Int (I)	—	2.24(1.52)	184.0(158.0)	—	—	—
Wades Dept St (F)	5.3(5.17)	1.02(0.87)	7.98(7.04)	1.56(1.38)	—	2.26(2.0)
Whitworth Elec (F)	9.2(8.7)	0.26(0.20)	2.79(2.12)	0.81(0.74)	—	0.81(0.74)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pounds per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.49. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Loss.

## EIS aims for £1.8m pre-tax for year

By Michael Clark  
A general improvement in all divisions has enabled Electrical and Industrial Securities to hoist pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 by 32 per cent to £875,000.

The group is confident about prospects for the second half, and with healthy order books throughout, it expects the progress of the first half to be maintained. The board is therefore projecting a pre-tax profit of £1.8m for the full year against £1.4m. An interim dividend of 1.5p gross a share has been declared. Turnover of the group, whose principal activities are in industrial engineering, increased by 77.5 per cent to £10.8m.

Mr Richard Reed, the group's chief executive, said the group had decided to spend £500,000 on an expansion programme at its Koutak subsidiary at Grangeham. This is expected to increase its production of hydraulic valves by 50 per cent. Mr Reed described Koutak's performance as encouraging last year owing to a recovery in the sales of jet engines for which it makes a range of components.

## Atlantic Int may face big tax bill

By Ronald Pullen

Atlantic International, the London-based consortium bank, could face a heavy tax liability totalling £372,000, some 10 per cent of its net worth. This will arise if the Inland Revenue's ruling, to tax the increase from the translation into sterling of foreign currency assets obtained from the issue of United States dollar subordinated debentures without also allowing relief for the corresponding increase in the sterling equivalent of such debentures is upheld. This ruling was currently being challenged by several other consortium banks with Marine Midland being used as a test case.

Meanwhile the bank has consolidated its recovery after slipping up on real estate loans three years ago with an increase in pre-tax profits in the year to June 30 from £701,266 to £885,984. The balance sheet has increased from £122m to £135m.

## Minority payments result in lower attributable profits at Revertex

Revertex, the maker of natural and synthetic rubber latex, resins, sound deadening products and corrosion resistant lines had a mixed run in the six months to June 30, with pre-tax profits rising, but attributable profits falling.

It did manage to grow, but only at the cost of a loss in the sound deadening operations of £380,000. Moreover, the growth there came only in areas where substantial minorities led to higher below the lines deductions.

The first of these is Doverstrand a synthetic latex compound where the group has only 50.01 per cent of the equity. The second is Revertex Malaysia where an outside partner has 30 per cent of the shares, and the third is Harlow Chemicals in emulsions. Here the Revertex stake is 50 per cent. The price paid for these sizable minorities was the failure of profits to grow at the attributable level. Turnover in the six months rose by 6.3 per cent to £31.73m while pre-tax profits climbed 15.3 per cent to £1.81m. But after an increase in tax, and in minorities of £218,000, to £286,000, attributable profits slipped from £629,000 to £613,000.

The directors report that the acoustic losses are unlikely to improve before next year. For the rest of the group the outlook seems more promising, but the problem of growth localized



Sir Campbell Adamson

in subsidiaries with big minorities remains. For all attributable profits will ably make no headway. All this seems to indicate is a maintained dividend allowing for a one for one issue earlier this year. Interim dividend is effect 1.17p a share again, or gross.

The yield on the shares unchanged 69p is 7.6 per cent, usefully above the chem average. Revertex's profits going nowhere in particular the fourth year from the beginning of the year when it have settled down in its factory at Rushden, Northants.

The policy of bringing partners and minority to growth areas is defended on the grounds of freeing up for expansion elsewhere, generating more business in countries concerned. But when attributable profits again, there is no indication the statement of Sir Campbell Adamson, chairman.

## Two errors discovered in Somportex accounts

By Ray Maughan

Two errors have been discovered in the accounts circulated on August 23 by confectionery distributor and delicatessen group, Somportex Holdings.

In a statement sent to the Stock Exchange yesterday, Somportex revealed that one of these errors "is of presentation in consolidation, by which a credit for tax liability reserves instead of deferred taxation, a presentation which would have been proper had the accounting policies of the company as published so provided for the error."

The second error, the group explained, "involves the accidental omission of a creditor's invoice". The error on consolidation came to light last week and chairman, Mr. Robert Noble, said that the mistake had been "entirely technical" and that the treatment by the group's auditors, Rothenburg Noble, would have been quite appropriate had the accounts been prepared in accordance with the provisions of ED 19. The omission of the creditor's invoice was unearthed during an internal invoice last Friday. It had not been discovered by one of the group's normal suppliers.

Preparation of fresh accounts is now in hand although the question as to whether Rothenburg Noble will earn another fee for undertaking a new audit has yet to be decided. The firm's remuneration last year was £7,500.

A month ago, Somportex unveiled a rise in annual pre-tax profits to just £77,000, a record £237,000. On present information, the board believes that "the net profits before tax disclosed on those fresh accounts will not be less than £150,000 and will therefore at worst be the second best in the group's history."

The annual meeting—convened for September 14—will take place, but will be adjourned to consider the re-audited accounts. All other items on the agenda will be taken so that the announced first and final dividend of 5.62687p gross per share can be sent out, as originally intended, on the following day. The shares were quoted at 701p yesterday and neither the company's brokers and jobbers in the stock felt that there had been a false market since the preliminary statement.

## Metal Closures' interim dip

Continued depression in metal and plastics packaging market since autumn last year resulted in a decline in pre-profits for Metal Closures Group from £2.5m to £2.4m in the months to June 30, 1978.

Turnover increased slightly to £27.4m from £26.5m, an upsurge in demand in August which should continue the year end, enabling a group to match last year's record pre-tax profit of £3.8. But the turnaround was too late to benefit first-half results.

The upturn in demand in metal packaging is expected to continue at an acceptable level for the remainder of the year, says chairman, Mr John Boden. However, the threat of industrial disputes looms over the group because of the Government's pay policy and may affect the second-half's progress. An interim dividend of 2.0p has been declared, against 2.5p gross, and the group expects to propose a total dividend, which includes the maximum permitted 10 per cent increase.

## Big improvement likely in Morgan Edwards' liquidity

The surgeon's knife, wielded by the new management team at retail and wholesale grocery group, Morgan Edwards, has cut net tangible assets from £110m to £340,000 at the April 30 balance sheet date. However, acting chairman Mr Alistair Grant tells shareholders in his first annual report that liquidity will benefit significantly from the cash realization of the Sidslater catering subsidiary, the ten retail stores have been closed and other surplus property assets.

Assets held for disposals amount to £569,000, held as current assets in the balance sheet, and the greater part should be realized by the end of this month. With the £131,000 cash injection by Avonmiles Morgan Edwards is expected to "be in a position to pursue opportunities both for internal growth and for acquisition" by the end of the year.

Further development plans at Fitch Lovell  
Plans are under way at Fitch Lovell for increased involvement in the manufacturing sector, where higher margins are obtainable, and the further development of wholesale interests. Mr Michael Webster, chairman, in his annual report confirms the board's belief in future growth in multiple retailing through investment in large stores. New stores were opened last year with floor space totalling 51,500 sq ft with a further 46,000 sq ft opening shortly.

Warning on current year at Lep Group  
The disappointing trend experienced by the Lep Group in its overseas subsidiaries last year has continued into 1978, said the chairman in his annual report. This has been particularly noticeable in Italy and New Zealand, and unless an unexpected upturn in the second half materializes, the group is unlikely to maintain

## Esperanza shares drop

Esperanza Trade and Transport's shares fell 10p to 135p yesterday after Lord Kinnaird, chairman, reported a plunge in pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 last from a peak of £5.3m to £3.03m. However, these are the second highest figures ever.

The market was unprepared, because Esperanza made, as much as £1.7m in the first six months and a recovery was indicated at the half way stage. But there were no reasons to set prices too high because international services were in retreat and copper was suffering from low prices.

The directors explain that International Services have grown so fast that consolidation of management structure had to

take priority. This is taking longer than expected. World trade was sluggish, shipping was depressed. The copper interests made a loss. The breakdown shows that international services saw pre-tax profits slip from £5m to £3.3m while copper and port services swung from profits of £470,000 to losses of £27,000.

The aim this year, to next March is to hoist profits from services from 1977-78's £3.3m to £4.4m or so, and so far business is "significantly above the second half of last year. Meanwhile the final dividend is 5.43p gross making a maximum of 8.42p gross. Guinness ePar has a 21.2 per cent stake and Rothchild Investment Trust 17.1 per cent.

## Associates pull up Fitzwillton

Fitzwillton, the Dublin-based industrial conglomerate, has turned a pre-tax loss of £587,000 into profits of £1.1m as its share of profits from associated companies soared from £82,000 to £720,000 for the year ending June 30, 1978.

Trading profit halved to £431,000 and turnover fell from

£4m to £3m during the 12-month period.

The board is proposing a final dividend of 3.72p gross, which with the interim of 2.23p, makes a total of 5.95p compared with 4.33p last year.

A loss of 5.07p per share has also been turned round to earnings per share of 4.09p.

## Pittard results down, but Garnar's up

By Ray Maughan

Profits grew sharply at Pittard Group during the second half of 1977 but, although the leather tanner and dyer still faces problems in North America prompted by exchange rate fluctuations, the picture is slowly improving.

In the first six months, profits fell heavily from the peak £1.14m to £582,000 and, in addition to the decline of certain overseas markets, Pittard's problems were compounded by the integration of "whole hide" production at Crydon and extensive modernization at R. & A. Kohnstamm. Exports, 36 per cent of turnover, should be maintained and the leather group is looking for an upturn in the home market. Profits in the second half, then, should be better than those of the first.

The change in income tax rates has enabled Pittard to pay a further dividend of 0.0253p for 1977 which, with the interim declared in the current year, totals 1.866p gross per share. The interim dividend paid last year was 1.67p per share.

The shares dropped 5p to 53p yesterday but, Garnar's, which is now the leading manufacturer of chamois leathers, managed a 1p improvement to 58p after a half year of "steady progress".

More than a third of Garnar's turnover is exported but, despite the problems faced by leather manufacturers in many markets abroad, demand remains very satisfactory. Pre-tax profits for the six months ended July 31 last climbed 14 per cent to £573,000 and the gross interim dividend is lifted from 2.612p to 2.985p per share.

## Mr I. Harrison joins Sears Holdings board

Mr Irving Harrison, managing director of Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, has been made a director of Sears Holdings.

The Vice-President of Sears Holdings has become a director of Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society. Mr M. J. Childs, Mr R. G. and Mr J. B. Hembry have joined the board of Sears Holdings (Holdings).

Mr J. B. Byas has been made sales director and Mr J. O'Connell, director of production, development and design, has been made chairman of Sears Holdings (Holdings).

Mr Eric Frye is now an executive director of H. W. Brammer. Mr R. J. L. Bromble is to become chairman of Chaudry & Harcourt, succeeding Mr A. D. Tennant, who is retiring and will become chairman of Chandler, Harcourt & Co. (Holdings).

Mr David Leighton and Mr Michael Gauge have joined the Grindley Brands insurance group as managing director and assistant managing director respectively.

Mr John Morris, Mr Frank Morrison and Mr John Wells join the board of Rabone Petersen. Mr L. M. Jarman, managing director of Dunlop Australia, has joined the board of North British Hill Holdings as a non-executive director. Mr Dennis Raybould has become a director of Hamworthy Engineering. Mr Stuart Davies has been made a director of Tape Projects. Mr P. R. Davies is now a director of Chapman. Mr Stuart Miller has become managing director of Lister Croker. Mr Derek Walker has been made managing director of Employer Protection Management Services. Mr Stephen Young has become managing director of Hytec 23 in succession to Mr S. Evans, who continues as a director. Mr Dennis Doude has become managing director of Whitall & Farrer.

## INTERIM REPORT

The Group produces the widest range of quality leathers which it sells to leading footwear, clothing, glove and accessory manufacturers in nearly 40 countries.

	Six months to 30 June 1978	Six months to 30 June 1977	Year to 31 December 1977
Sales	£ 7,922,984	£ 9,395,426	£ 17,159,720
Profit before Tax	582,397	1,137,322	1,694,223
Corporation Tax (52%) and tax on foreign subsidiaries	299,133	586,700	872,710
Profit after Tax	£ 283,264	£ 550,622	£ 821,513
Interim Dividend	91,594	82,434	198,694
Earnings per Share	3.7p	7.5p	11.2p

(the above figures have not been audited)

Results. Sales for the six months to 30 June 1978 were £7,922,984. There was only a modest reduction in home turnover but overseas there was a significant decline in some markets, in particular the USA and Canada, due to their own economic problems. Nevertheless, overseas sales accounted for 36% of the total. General trading conditions remained difficult during the period with subsidised competition continuing from Brazil, Argentina, India, etc. There were additional difficulties at R. & A. Kohnstamm Limited due to the disruption caused by the extensive modernisation programme and the integration of the "whole hide" production

formerly carried out by Wiggins Thomas Limited at Crydon. Prospects. Pre-tax profit at £582,397, although substantially lower than last year's record first-half figure was nevertheless an improvement on the second six months of 1977. Current indications for the second half of 1978 are that sales in the home market will show an improvement and that exports should be at least maintained. Accordingly, we expect the profit for the six months to 31 December 1978 to exceed that of the first six months.

Dividends. Interim of 1.8667p declared, with additional 1977 dividend of 0.10121p, payable 2 January 1979.

C. J. Pittard, Chairman.

## WOE Trust net earnings up a third

Investment and financial services group, The West of England Trust, reports a rise in after tax profits of 36.6 per cent to £1.3m, for the full year to June 30.

Profits have been given after tax, said the board, because of the difficulty of presenting a consolidated statement of pre-tax profits due to the varying treatment for taxation of the profits from different sources so as to give effect to the revised accounting standard on deferred tax. The group's tax charge decreased from £590,000 to £532,000, but the simple addition of this figure to profits after tax does not result in a true appraisal of pre-tax profits.

Total income after tax amounted to £1.4m compared with £1.3m last time. Of this investment services contributed £684,000, against £264,000, and legal and financial services rose by £14,000 to £130,000. A final dividend of 1.3p has been proposed, making a total of 2.28p gross, an increase of 0.24p. At the same time, the board intends to declare an interim dividend for the current year of 0.54p.

## Options

There were few buyers and sellers in the traded options market yesterday, though most of the 329 contracts were fairly evenly spread throughout all 10 stocks.

ICI and BP, both with interim figures on Thursday, saw most of the activity though with the equity market having fallen for the past five sessions, there seems little to entice punters into traded options meantime.

## Further development plans at Fitch Lovell

Plans are under way at Fitch Lovell for increased involvement in the manufacturing sector, where higher margins are obtainable, and the further development of wholesale interests. Mr Michael Webster, chairman, in his annual report confirms the board's belief in future growth in multiple retailing through investment in large stores. New stores were opened last year with floor space totalling 51,500 sq ft with a further 46,000 sq ft opening shortly.

Warning on current year at Lep Group  
The disappointing trend experienced by the Lep Group in its overseas subsidiaries last year has continued into 1978, said the chairman in his annual report. This has been particularly noticeable in Italy and New Zealand, and unless an unexpected upturn in the second half materializes, the group is unlikely to maintain

the disappointing trend experienced by the Lep Group in its overseas subsidiaries last year has continued into 1978, said the chairman in his annual report. This has been particularly noticeable in Italy and New Zealand, and unless an unexpected upturn in the second half materializes, the group is unlikely to maintain

## Briefly

HELICAL BAR. Abingworth has sold 17.22 per cent of its shares to Helical Bar, suppliers and designers of steel reinforcement, for £100,000. The two companies are now 100 per cent owned by Helical. They each owned 50,000 shares at 40p.

WY MOWAT. Directors are considering a £250,000 order for a company, Jenith. Mowat's 1977 pre-tax profits were £12,800. It is believed that Jenith is looking to reverse into Mowat and return Stock Market listing as its offer is 22p a share compared with yesterday's price of 21p 4 1/2.

PRU IN NETHERLANDS. Prudential Assurance is to establish an organization to transact life business from next year in

the Netherlands. G. J. W. Rotgans has been appointed legal representative and will operate from the Prudential office, which will be in Amsterdam.

ELBAR INDUSTRIAL. Tanzania Concessions and its subsidiary have concluded to build up their stake in Elbar Industrial and now hold 59.49 per cent of Elbar's shares.

ADDAS INTERNATIONAL. Details have been finalized for the construction of an extension to the Park Plaza Hotel in London, consisting of 78 rooms, all with private facilities, scheduled for opening in spring, 1980. On completion, the Park Plaza will offer a total of 370 rooms.

SCOTTISH EASTERN. Gross income of Scottish Eastern Investment Trust rose from £2.19m to £2.52m in the half-year to July 31. Profit after all charges, 11.36p (£1.16m).

RANSOM'S SIMS. Ransome Sims & Jeffries has bought Dorman Sprayer of Elm, makers of spraying equipment, for £502,000 in cash and shares.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

in low Milan stockbroker forecasts  
what market will recover

Milan—Conditions are ripe for a recovery in the Milan stock market, according to a survey of 100 stockbrokers. The survey, conducted by the Milan Stock Exchange, shows that 70 per cent of the brokers believe the market will recover within the next six months. The survey also shows that 60 per cent of the brokers believe the market will reach its 1977 peak by the end of the year. The survey was conducted by the Milan Stock Exchange, which is the largest stock exchange in Italy. The survey shows that the market is currently at a low level, but that it is expected to recover within the next six months. The survey also shows that the market is expected to reach its 1977 peak by the end of the year. The survey was conducted by the Milan Stock Exchange, which is the largest stock exchange in Italy.

## Analysts expect higher German prices

Frankfurt—West German prices, which gained over 10 per cent in the first six months of this year, should rise further in the second half, although the pace of future gains is virtually impossible to gauge, analysts say. The survey shows that the market is currently at a low level, but that it is expected to recover within the next six months. The survey also shows that the market is expected to reach its 1977 peak by the end of the year. The survey was conducted by the Milan Stock Exchange, which is the largest stock exchange in Italy.

Turnover in West German prices is likely to surpass the record DM43,100m (about \$11,137m) set in the first half of this year, which exceeded the previous record of DM35,400m reached in the first six months of 1977, they told Reuters in telephone interviews.

The analysts said continued high private and corporate liquidity, an expected increase in company profits and improved dividend yields arising from corporate tax reforms will continue to push shares higher in the second half of the year.

Government and private institutional forecasts of 2.5 per cent annual gross national product growth this year are not optimistic, though prospects for the stimulatory package promised by West Germany at the Bonn summit and Federal government tax relief measures should spur public spending for consumer goods.

This stimulus should lead to increased demand for shares in the leading department stores such as Kaufhof and Karstadt, while among leading producers of electrical goods, Siemens and AEG-Telefunken should benefit from the expected spending spree. The analysts said that prices of fixed-interest securities have less chance of rising in coming months than shares and this could result in a greater move into shares.

To illustrate this shift away from domestic bonds and term deposits, the analysts point out that in the first half of this year German shares accounted for about DM15,000m of the total DM43,100m turnover on West German bourses, compared

with DM13,000m in the same period last year, while domestic bonds accounted for almost 50 per cent of DM20,200m compared with about DM20,200m. Much will depend on the market in fixed-interest securities pulling itself out of its recent weak phase and analysts said they see signs of this beginning.

The analysts said prices seem to be on a solid enough basis to preclude any sharp sustained decline, though occasional fluctuations may occur.

One consideration liable to impede a rise is a sharp fall in the dollar which may prompt investors' fears for the prospects of Germany's export industries, or an unexpectedly sharp rise in oil prices towards the end of the year. However, the recent dollar weakness has not deterred a rise in share prices or prompted a higher market turnover.

Commodities

MAIZE—No. 3 yellow American, 1977/78, 1978/79, 1979/80, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1982/83, 1983/84, 1984/85, 1985/86, 1986/87, 1987/88, 1988/89, 1989/90, 1990/91, 1991/92, 1992/93, 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28, 2028/29, 2029/30, 2030/31, 2031/32, 2032/33, 2033/34, 2034/35, 2035/36, 2036/37, 2037/38, 2038/39, 2039/40, 2040/41, 2041/42, 2042/43, 2043/44, 2044/45, 2045/46, 2046/47, 2047/48, 2048/49, 2049/50, 2050/51, 2051/52, 2052/53, 2053/54, 2054/55, 2055/56, 2056/57, 2057/58, 2058/59, 2059/60, 2060/61, 2061/62, 2062/63, 2063/64, 2064/65, 2065/66, 2066/67, 2067/68, 2068/69, 2069/70, 2070/71, 2071/72, 2072/73, 2073/74, 2074/75, 2075/76, 2076/77, 2077/78, 2078/79, 2079/80, 2080/81, 2081/82, 2082/83, 2083/84, 2084/85, 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